

7/18/2023

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

Russell H. Conwell Middle Magnet School
1849 Clearfield Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19134
Tuesday, July 18, 2023
5:40 p.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN CURTIS JONES, JR., CHAIR
COUNCILMAN KENYATTA JOHNSON
COUNCILWOMAN KENDRA BROOKS
COUNCILWOMAN JAMIE GAUTHIER
COUNCILMAN JIM HARRITY
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA

RESOLUTIONS: 230120, 230121

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2 COUNCILMAN JONES: This is a
3 continuation of the Committee on
4 Public Safety to review two
5 resolutions, Resolution Nos. 230120
6 and 230121.

7 Mr. Cohen, will you please
8 read the titles of the resolutions.

9 THE CLERK: Resolution No.
10 230120, authorizing the City Council
11 Committee on Public Safety to hold
12 public hearings to examine the open
13 air drug market and other barriers to
14 clean, safe, crime-free streets in
15 Kensington.

16 Resolution No. 230121, calling
17 for the establishment of the Marshall
18 Stabilization and Recovery Plan to
19 combat the issues facing Kensington
20 and the surrounding areas in
21 Philadelphia.

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
23 Mr. Cohen.

24 At this time, I'd like to
25 recognize one of the authors of these

1 resolutions. Member Quetcy Lozada.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
3 you, Mr. Chair, and thank all of you.
4 I'd like to thank all of you for
5 being with us today. I'd like to
6 thank those of you who were here the
7 first time. Today I hope that we're
8 going to be able to walk out of here
9 understanding better what we are
10 going to do from now until the end of
11 the year, what we are going to do
12 different and hope that everyone
13 understands. Because I believe my
14 office has reached out to each one of
15 you who are testifying today, and
16 that you understand that we're very
17 clear about what each and every one
18 of you do on a daily basis. We know
19 what you're doing.

20 Today's purpose is not for you
21 to repeat that to us. We know that.
22 We want to know what you're planning
23 to do moving forward that is
24 different from what you're currently
25 doing that will help us change and

1 improve the quality of life in the
2 Kensington, Harrowgate community.

3 And I mean that with a lot of
4 respect for the work that you all do.
5 I'm not saying that what you're doing
6 is not good enough. What I am saying
7 is that it is not working, and we see
8 that it's not working because we see
9 the conditions of the neighborhood
10 every day.

11 And so, while we're grateful
12 for the work that you all do every
13 day, we need you to do something
14 different so that we can help improve
15 the quality of life. And so, I don't
16 want to delay this any further. I
17 think that I'd like to thank my
18 colleague here, Councilman Harrity,
19 for always being a voice of the
20 community that he also lives in, and
21 Councilman Jones, who when I said I
22 need Kensington to be a priority for
23 you, that he immediately said yes.
24 So thank you very much.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,

1 Member.

2 We'll now recognize

3 Mr. Harrity, Member Harrity, who also
4 represents Kensington.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Hello,
6 everyone and thank you all for
7 coming. As my colleague said, what's
8 going on here in Kensington is
9 atrocious. And what we've been doing
10 has not worked, so we need to come up
11 with new ideas and work together
12 because this will never happen unless
13 every department, every City agency,
14 every elected official is working as
15 a team in order to make not just
16 Kensington but the whole city a
17 better place.

18 I represent the whole city and
19 I say there's little Kensingtons all
20 over the City, just not as crazy as
21 it is here, but there's little spots
22 in South Philadelphia and West
23 Philadelphia and Northeast,
24 Roxborough where they go and
25 congregate and get high. And as not

1 only a Councilman but as a resident,
2 enough is enough.

3 My residents, my neighbors are
4 good people. They're just scared.
5 And they should be able to come out
6 of their house. The kids should be
7 able to play. We should be able to
8 have PlayStreets and be able to not
9 worry about drug dealers being on the
10 corner and those PlayStreets not
11 being able to have the lunch program
12 because of those drug dealers on the
13 corner.

14 How about we remove the drug
15 dealers and give the kids something
16 to eat. So thank you, and I look
17 forward to working with every one of
18 you on trying to make Kensington and
19 the City of Philadelphia a safer and
20 cleaner place to live. Thank you.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
22 Member.

23 I want to note for the record
24 that we're back. I want to note for
25 the record because I heard some of

1 the cynicism in the first hearing
2 that this is a one-time dog and pony
3 show, not true. I want to note that
4 this is after Election day. They
5 won. We're back. We're not going
6 anywhere.

7 We were having a robust
8 conversation with some folk, and the
9 issue was East of Market and what it
10 would take in order to rejuvenate
11 whether you're for moving a stadium
12 there, whether you're not. But they
13 recognized that there was some
14 fundamental problems dealing with
15 safety. Some people were concerned
16 about aggressive panhandling. Some
17 were concerned about prostitution.
18 Others were concerned about juvenile
19 unrest at night and lawlessness that
20 was in there.

21 And I said to them, how can we
22 be so concerned about this strip of
23 land and not be as concerned about
24 Kensington, about what goes on here
25 every day. And so, when we start to

1 look at budgets, when we start to
2 look at limited resources and where
3 we apply those resources, we will not
4 leave this neighborhood behind.

5 So today we don't want to be
6 expert articulators of the problem,
7 even though I watched somebody shoot
8 up on my way here, watched them shoot
9 up. What we want from you tonight is
10 recommendations on solutions. We
11 want to say if we were in charge, if
12 you had a magic budget wand, whatever
13 those resources, you need to fix
14 this, tell us what it is. So we can
15 talk about the problem that much, but
16 we need to talk about solutions this
17 much.

18 And if we can do that, we will
19 be able to communicate this to the
20 100th Mayor of the City of
21 Philadelphia and send them, him or
22 her, a statement that until you fix
23 this, we're not going anywhere.
24 We're going to keep shining the light
25 on the problem until we shine a light

1 on solutions.

2 And I want to thank my
3 colleagues because I knew it existed,
4 but until it bothers you as much as
5 it bothers the people who have to
6 deal with this every day, you don't
7 feel it. It only takes a couple of
8 times to come down here to see that
9 we as a city have to do something
10 about it. So I don't want to belabor
11 the point.

12 What I want to do is hear some
13 articulation of what your area of
14 expertise is, what your wheelhouse of
15 information is, to go right straight
16 at the solutions that you can
17 recommend to us to change the
18 condition of Kensington.

19 Mr. Cohen, will you please
20 read the first panel to testify.

21 THE CLERK: Yes, Mr. Chairman.
22 Noelle Foizen, Director of the Opioid
23 Response Unit. Also available for
24 questions are representatives with
25 the Managing Director's Office, the

1 Department of Public Health, the
2 Office of the Community Service, the
3 Police Department, the Department of
4 Licenses & Inspections, the Streets
5 Department, the Office of Children
6 and Families, the Department of Parks
7 & Recreation, the Free Library of
8 Philadelphia, the Department of
9 Commerce, CLIP and the Department of
10 Behavioral Health Intellectual
11 Disability Services and the Office of
12 Homeless Services. You can come to
13 the front table or sit in the front
14 row if you represent any of those
15 departments. Thank you.

16 (Witness approached
17 Witness table.)

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
19 so much.

20 So we will begin. State your
21 name always for the record and please
22 begin your testimony but also your
23 recommendations.

24 MS. FOIZEN: Hi. Good
25 evening, everyone. Good evening,

1 Chairperson Jones and members of City
2 Council's Committee of Public Safety.

3 I am Noelle Foizen, Director of the
4 Opioid Response Unit for the City of
5 Philadelphia. I will provide
6 testimony on behalf of the
7 Administration joined by key
8 leadership from the Administration,
9 who will address any questions raised
10 during public testimony.

11 We submitted a longer version
12 to City Council for the record. We
13 thank the students, school staff and
14 residents who bravely shared their
15 testimony with us in the previous
16 hearing. We hear and acknowledge the
17 hurt and suffering that has been felt
18 by your community. A generation of
19 children and their families have
20 grown up to witness activities no
21 child should be exposed to while
22 going to school, playing in the park
23 or walking the neighborhood. We
24 share your frustration and remain
25 committed to improving the quality of

1 life in Kensington until your
2 community feels safe instead of
3 suffering.

4 I want to thank the Committee
5 on Public Safety for convening this
6 hearing with hearings on public
7 safety concerns in Kensington and
8 Harrowgate. We appreciate the
9 partnership by Councilmembers Lozada
10 and Squilla and are focused on
11 seeking solutions through these
12 meetings.

13 In the past two years, we've
14 met regularly with community leaders
15 and residents and continue to be
16 inspired by your insight, creativity
17 and tenacity to restore a safe and
18 healthy environment for all residents
19 in your community. Today we continue
20 this important dialogue, listen and
21 respond to your concerns.

22 The testimony we provide
23 tonight is in response to the
24 priorities voiced by your community
25 and offers key updates on the City's

1 progress to support local schools and
2 parks, increase public safety and
3 improve quality of life in
4 Kensington.

5 The first update is around
6 supporting the Kensington Plan. We
7 are honored to support the Kensington
8 Plan, a community-driven,
9 trauma-informed planning process
10 facilitated by the two anchor
11 community organizations on the
12 corridor, New Kensington Community
13 Development Corporation or NKCDC and
14 Impact Services.

15 The Kensington Plan utilizes a
16 collective impact framework and
17 proposes strategic investments that
18 address underlying physical, social
19 and economic conditions negatively
20 impacting the health and prosperity
21 of residents in Kensington. The
22 Managing Director's Office is
23 investing 7.5 million in funds from
24 the National Opioid Settlement
25 through the Kensington master

1 planning process towards support to
2 keep residents in their homes and
3 improvement for parks and schools in
4 the Kensington area.

5 Recognizing the toll the
6 opioid epidemic has had on local
7 schools, the Managing Director's
8 Office is investing 2 million from
9 the National Opioid Settlement to
10 help support the students and faculty
11 at six public schools in the
12 Kensington area: Jules E. Mastbaum
13 High School, Russell H. Conwell
14 Middle Magnet School, Francis E.
15 Willard Elementary School, Lewis
16 Elkin Elementary School, John H.
17 Webster Elementary and Gloria Casarez
18 Elementary School will each receive
19 \$333,333 towards site and security
20 improvements for playgrounds,
21 fencing, gates, camera installation
22 and prevention programming by
23 December of 2023.

24 The Managing Director's Office
25 is investing 600,000 from the

1 National Opioid Settlement to support
2 six Kensington area parks. Each park
3 will receive \$100,000 towards
4 programming, site improvements and
5 community-building activities by the
6 fall of 2023. NKCDC and Impact have
7 begun a participatory decision-making
8 process with residents in Harrowgate
9 Park, Hissey Playground, Hope Park,
10 McPherson Square Park, Scanlon
11 Recreation Center and Trenton &
12 Auburn Playground and Park.

13 The next updates are around
14 increasing public safety and
15 narcotics enforcement. The City
16 remains focused on increasing public
17 safety and targeted narcotics
18 enforcement in Kensington. In
19 addition to increased redeployment in
20 East Police Division and the
21 Kensington Police District, the City
22 works closely with law enforcement
23 agencies, behavioral health providers
24 and City agencies to ensure
25 coordinated response to public safety

1 concerns.

2 In July of 2023, police
3 conducted an intensive three-day
4 narcotics operation in East Division.
5 The narcotics initiative utilized
6 various resources of the Police
7 Department and involved local, state,
8 local and federal law enforcement
9 agencies in partnership with City
10 agencies.

11 Police served 79 warrants and
12 seized 29 guns, including two ghost
13 guns. Police made 175 arrests and
14 made 27 referrals to Police-Assisted
15 Diversion and issued 46 code
16 violation notices. Police seized 1.4
17 million in narcotics streets value
18 and 77,000 in U.S. currency. As of
19 July 11th, only three arrestees'
20 charges were dropped by the District
21 Attorney's Office.

22 In November of 2022, police
23 launched the City's first Behavioral
24 Health Unit to provide a city-wide
25 co-responder model for vulnerable

1 residents who encounter police. The
2 BHU includes the Crisis Intervention
3 Response Teams and Police-Assisted
4 Diversion or PAD. Crisis
5 Intervention Response Teams or CIRT
6 paired Philadelphia Police Department
7 officers with civilian mental health
8 service providers to respond to
9 residents experiencing mental health
10 or emotional distress.

11 Since November of 2022, CIRT
12 teams have engaged 412 vulnerable
13 residents and only 2 percent of
14 encounters required use of force by
15 an officer and less than 1 percent
16 resulted in arrest. Police-Assisted
17 Diversion is a joint operation
18 between police, the Office of
19 Criminal Justice and civilian service
20 providers aimed to divert offenders
21 away from the criminal justice system
22 towards supportive peer-based social
23 services.

24 In 2022, 1388 individuals were
25 diverted through Police-Assisted

1 Diversion at the point of arrest and
2 two of three PAD participants
3 accepted the offer to enroll in
4 treatment. There was a re-arrest
5 rate of 8.5 percent among PAD
6 participants in Calendar Year '22, a
7 small percentage compared to the
8 statewide recidivism rate of 65
9 percent. Most diversions take place
10 in Kensington and involve arrests for
11 retail theft, prostitution and
12 low-level drug charges.

13 The Police Department and
14 Parks & Recreation continue to
15 enforce park regulations in
16 Kensington. Park rangers patrol
17 McPherson Square and Harrowgate Park
18 five days a week from 9:30 a.m. to
19 5:00 p.m. Additional ranger coverage
20 is provided to McPherson on weekends.
21 Park rangers and police enforce no
22 camping and no drug use while police
23 enforce the curfew.

24 Parks & Recreation placed
25 boulders around the perimeter of

1 McPherson last summer to restrict
2 vehicle access. And then the third
3 section is around improving quality
4 of life. To address quality-of-life
5 concerns, the City is making
6 proactive measures to address the
7 presence of mobile service providers,
8 strengthen enforcement against
9 illegal dumping and coordinate
10 regular cleaning and sanitation in
11 Kensington's public spaces.

12 We are aware that mobile
13 service providers, some not funded by
14 the City of Philadelphia, have been
15 operating in the Kensington area.
16 Through the Kensington planning
17 efforts lead by NKCDC and Impact
18 Services with the support of
19 Councilmembers Quetcy Lozada and Mark
20 Squilla, MDO will help facilitate a
21 process involving City agencies,
22 community residents and mobile
23 service providers to identify and
24 agree upon appropriate locations for
25 services, consolidation of schedules

1 to minimize (inaudible) efforts and
2 ensure sanitation is coordinated.

3 Police, Streets Department and
4 Law Department meet regularly to
5 streamline illegal dumping
6 enforcement and maximize efforts. As
7 of July 14, 2023 the City has brought
8 14 legal actions in the Philadelphia
9 Court of Common Pleas for -- sorry,
10 the City has brought 32 civil legal
11 actions in the Philadelphia Common
12 Pleas. To date, this has resulted in
13 judgments totaling over \$72,000,
14 32,000 in clean-up costs extended by
15 the City and 40,000 in fines. Six
16 additional cases are awaiting trial
17 and one is pending (inaudible)
18 hearing.

19 Parks & Recreation, CLIP and
20 public health teams provide regular
21 cleaning and sanitation support in
22 Kensington area parks. In FY23,
23 Parks & Recreation funded two
24 additional operations crews. Public
25 Health supports environmental

1 cleaning five days a week in
2 Kensington and coordinates with CLIP
3 and Parks & Rec to address problem
4 areas.

5 As of June 30th, the teams
6 have removed 61,115 syringes through
7 needle pick-ups and Block by Block
8 has removed 1,197 bags of trash. In
9 addition, CLIP provides sanitation
10 support around McPherson Square
11 Library five days a week and has
12 cleaned 2,343 vacant lots and
13 sanitized 1,671 blocks in Kensington
14 through June 2023.

15 I do want to add that today we
16 did join a walkaround with
17 Councilmember Lozada, with the Police
18 Department, Streets Department and
19 myself and NKCDC and Impact, and
20 there was an agreement to start a
21 pilot that we're trying to get to
22 24-hours-a-day pilot in a target
23 area, and we can answer more
24 questions on that in a second.

25 There is more to be done to

1 improve conditions in Kensington, and
2 we are committed to working in
3 partnership with community members.
4 I'm joined today by leadership from
5 within the Managing Director's
6 Office, Health and Human Services,
7 Community Services, Police
8 Department, Licenses & Inspections,
9 Streets Department, Parks &
10 Recreation, Commerce, CLIP,
11 Department of Behavioral Health and
12 Intellectual Disability Services,
13 Office of Criminal Services and
14 Public Health. We are now available
15 to answer your questions.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, thank
17 you for that comprehensive testimony.
18 I'd like to also recognize that I
19 have officially established a quorum
20 and Member Kenyatta Johnson and
21 Member Gauthier for being here.

22 If I were to describe your
23 role with all of the other
24 components, subcomponents that are a
25 part of this panel, you're the

1 orchestra, conductor for all of that
2 to kind of get set to blend in to
3 what the treatment plan for this area
4 is.

5 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah, sure.

6 Multi-conductor I like that. That
7 sounds very orchestral. So I'm the
8 coordinating body, so I'm based
9 within the Managing Director's Office
10 and I work with all the operating
11 departments to carry out their
12 mission. So we try to do it in a
13 coordinated fashion.

14 We're making sure that they're
15 all working together, we have a
16 single plan. I'm there to help them
17 work through if there's issues where
18 they're not getting enough resources
19 or if they need a certain department
20 at the table. We convene regular
21 strategy meetings with them. We have
22 an action plan that we put out each
23 year that has clearly identified
24 roles and responsibilities for all
25 the departments that are working in

1 this space. But, yes, I'm there as
2 the coordinating piece. I'm there to
3 make sure that we're minimizing
4 duplication of effort and a little
5 bit of herding cats, I would say.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: That is a
7 herculean task. So we're here today
8 to try to pull out of you if you had
9 the resources you need, what would be
10 those resources? Is it a question of
11 bringing things up to scale? Is it a
12 question of coordination?

13 What are tangible things that
14 we can help you with -- because
15 that's what type of hearing this is
16 today -- that if you could tap into
17 unlimited resources and do the things
18 you really wanted to do, what would
19 be those things?

20 MS. FOIZEN: I welcome that
21 question. And so, it's on a couple
22 of different fronts, right. And so,
23 today we had a great meeting that was
24 focused specifically on quality of
25 life and how we can coordinate the

1 schedules of everybody because we
2 have multiple teams that are out
3 there every day cleaning Kensington
4 Avenue and the surrounding community.
5 And depending on where you came
6 today, you might not have even known
7 that there's multiple teams that were
8 out there that were cleaning. And
9 so, I think one big piece of it is
10 making sure that we have enough of
11 the resources that we need. And so,
12 it's more people that are able to do
13 those things.

14 Today also on that walkaround
15 we had really good conversation with
16 a couple of the police officers that
17 were there and some of them have been
18 working the beat for a while, for
19 years, right. And they were talking
20 about -- the one officer said that
21 things, it felt more helpful during
22 the Resilience Project.

23 And I reminded him, I was
24 like, hey, I was actually around
25 during that. But then I pointed out

1 the difference between the Resilience
2 Project and now is that we had
3 shelter beds that came online
4 specifically to support that, right.
5 And so, there was a lot of encampment
6 resolution that was going on that was
7 tied directly to having placements
8 available for people.

9 So I say that's definitely
10 something that would be really
11 helpful in this space, just having
12 more housing opportunities. And
13 there are ones that we're bringing
14 online through the settlement, but we
15 could always use more of those. And
16 I think also just public safety, we
17 know that we can't just magically
18 create more police officers, but we
19 desperately need more of that
20 specifically to carry out the
21 enforcement plans we've been talking
22 about. There's just not enough
23 people to fill all the roles that we
24 need.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: I will

1 yield the mic to Member Lozada, and
2 recognizing that Councilman Squilla
3 is present.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Noelle,
5 thank you so much. We've had several
6 conversations over the course of the
7 last three weeks in preparation for
8 today, but also in general. And I
9 want folks to understand a little bit
10 about the work that is happening on
11 the ground, that causes chaos
12 sometimes with the mobile units that
13 we have providing much-needed
14 services in the neighborhood but who
15 often times obstruct quality of life,
16 right. Because we have a tendency to
17 not coordinate those services or
18 where those mobile services provide
19 those resources to community
20 residents. And often times they're
21 found in residential neighborhoods or
22 in primarily residential
23 neighborhoods.

24 What can we do? What's the
25 plan? And when we met with community

1 residents, community residents had
2 expressed their concern. How do we
3 coordinate better those services that
4 are much needed but who often times
5 cause havoc in the neighborhood?

6 MS. FOIZEN: I think that's a
7 really important question. It's
8 something we take very seriously. We
9 did just start a planning process
10 with the community and the mobile
11 providers and City departments
12 specifically to address the
13 quality-of-life concerns around
14 mobile service provision. We had our
15 first meeting last week.

16 The City has a lot of homework
17 that we need to do to come back to
18 this space, specifically around what
19 we're able to do in regards to
20 enforcement, permitting and whatnot.
21 I'd say there's sort of like four
22 buckets of mobile service provision
23 that we're seeing in the community
24 right now. Meal service, which we
25 saw a lot of today, medical services,

1 donated goods and I'd say sanitation,
2 sort of like showers and whatnot.

3 So as part of this planning
4 process, there's a discussion with
5 the community to figure out what are
6 our standards, like where --
7 personally I think we should not be
8 offering services in front of a
9 school or in front of a day care
10 center or right at a transit station.
11 And so, figuring out what are the
12 best locations for those with the
13 recognition that there are people who
14 desperately need these services as
15 well. And so, we need to make sure
16 that they're so trustable. So that's
17 the community conversation as part of
18 the planning effort. They're going
19 to help us figure out exactly what
20 are the no-go areas and then how can
21 we work together to figure this out.

22 Also, part of that planning
23 effort is with the providers. So
24 there are providers that we fund.
25 And the ones that we fund we're able

1 to say, please don't set up in front
2 of the day care center. But there's
3 ones that we don't fund. Right now
4 there's not really a mechanism to
5 have them come in line with us.

6 So we're hoping through this
7 planning process we'll be able to do
8 that, especially the homework piece
9 that I would say for the City part of
10 the planning, like really figuring
11 out, like are there tools that are
12 available to us around enforcement
13 that we're not using right now and
14 why are we not using them and can we
15 bring those online, do we need more
16 people, those types of things.

17 So that's something I -- it
18 just started last week. We're all
19 committed to working on it together.
20 August is supposed to be everybody's
21 meeting in their groups individually
22 doing stuff. And like I said, the
23 City has a lot of homework to do in
24 that space, but the whole group's
25 coming back together in September.

1 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: How's
2 community engaged in where these
3 providers provide these services at?
4 How are we reaching out to those
5 residents that are directly impacted?

6 MS. FOIZEN: So there was some
7 outreach done before the first
8 meeting. There were discussions in
9 that meeting about who else needs to
10 be at the table and how can we get
11 more people there. There were about
12 six people at the first meeting, so
13 it was a nice turnout. And they did
14 do an exercise where they had a map
15 up on the wall and it showed each
16 person that was there pick up a
17 sticker where they were located.

18 And there was definitely --
19 there was good representation for
20 where we see a lot of mobile
21 provision, but not enough
22 representation. So I know that
23 there's an effort to get more people.
24 I know that they were going to be
25 doing more targeted outreach

1 specifically to all the civic and
2 community-based organizations that we
3 partner with to get more people to
4 the table for that community
5 conversation, because I think it is
6 really important to have that voice
7 at the table.

8 Up until this point the last
9 time we had really concerted
10 discussions with the community about
11 placement of services, I would say
12 was a couple of years ago and it was
13 specifically around when we had
14 (inaudible) mobile restrooms in the
15 community as part of the Hep C
16 response and they haven't really done
17 a large process like that since then.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: About
19 how many providers do you think we
20 have that are providing mobile
21 services?

22 MS. FOIZEN: I don't have --
23 there's a lot. I can share the list
24 of those that have agreed to come to
25 the meeting. We did include -- it

1 was not limited just to mobile
2 providers. We also had brick-and-
3 mortar providers and health systems
4 were they're too because we are
5 trying to do a real holistic look as
6 a provision of services. And so,
7 Esperanza Health Center was there,
8 Episcopal was there, Temple was
9 there. We are trying to get
10 everybody at the table. So there are
11 20-ish mobile providers that came to
12 the table and I'll get you a more
13 efficient number than --

14 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: 21?

15 MS. FOIZEN: Like around 20.
16 And we have started -- part of that
17 standing effort is getting a schedule
18 of where they are right now. But
19 we're trying to be very clear that
20 the City hasn't approved the
21 schedule. This is just sort of where
22 you're providing services now and
23 days you're out there now and through
24 this process providing a way of
25 approving the schedule. But right

1 now we do have a good sense of where
2 folks are that have a regular
3 schedule and what services they are
4 providing. And I can share that with
5 the Committee.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: And
7 within those 20 providers, how much
8 money does that represent?

9 MS. FOIZEN: Most of them are
10 not providers that we are funding.
11 So most of them are providers that
12 have City contracts. There's a
13 couple that are part of that list,
14 but majority of them are smaller
15 groups.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Okay.
17 And how many of them are services
18 that overlap?

19 MS. FOIZEN: I would say
20 there's definitely some overlap of
21 services. There's not been --
22 because it has not been coordinated
23 by the City, there has not been an
24 analysis done of sort of what scale
25 we need of service. And so, there is

1 quite a lot of overlap I would say.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Okay.

3 I'm going to ask that we work and we
4 make it a priority to work with
5 community residents who are directly
6 impacted by the services that the
7 mobile units are doing in the
8 neighborhood. And that is because I
9 don't think a day goes by that I
10 don't receive a complaint from a
11 community resident, a community group
12 regarding services, like I said that
13 are desperately needed in the
14 neighborhood, but that makes
15 residential blocks difficult to live
16 in and whose children are often times
17 impacted because we draw services off
18 of the commercial corridor and into
19 the neighborhood.

20 And so, I think that we have
21 plenty of community groups in every
22 part of Kensington, Harrowgate. As
23 we kind of work our way out, there
24 are many, many groups who bring
25 community residents together and

1 should be a part of the conversation
2 regarding where these mobile
3 providers should be set up.

4 I also think that if the
5 services overlap, they don't have to
6 all be here on the same day at the
7 same time providing the same
8 services. And you and I have had a
9 conversation and the Police
10 Department, thanking Chief McCarrick,
11 we never had an accurate number of
12 how many people we're serving, right.

13 And so, if we can tell that
14 the number is higher in the summer,
15 then let's figure out how we spread
16 these mobile providers out that are
17 providing the same services into
18 different parts of the neighborhood
19 so that they're not concentrated in
20 one specific area.

21 I'm going to continue to say
22 that my priority over the next two
23 months is to break up concentration
24 in the Kensington, Harrowgate
25 community. And I want your help. I

1 need everyone's help to be able to
2 get this done, while understanding
3 that sometimes folks are not going to
4 go in to get the necessary services,
5 so the mobile units are really
6 important. But we can't have them
7 continuing to negatively impact the
8 community's quality of life in those
9 residential areas. Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before
11 you -- Member Gauthier is next. Help
12 me understand. Did I understand you
13 to say that one of the
14 recommendations should be that there
15 should be a disbursement of some of
16 those services to various parts of
17 the neighborhood?

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yes
19 there should be a disbursement of
20 services to different parts of the
21 neighborhood, especially if they
22 overlap. And they should not be in
23 residential neighborhoods. We have
24 Kensington Avenue. We have Aramingo
25 Avenue. We have a lot of wide spaces

1 that are less than 80 percent
2 residential where some of those
3 services can be drawn to, right, and
4 that would not impact directly
5 children and families.

6 And so, again I want to
7 recognize that these services are
8 necessary. They just can't be in the
9 same place all at the same time
10 (inaudible) --

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: There you
12 go. Did I understand you to say that
13 the planning, discussion and process
14 is just beginning with community
15 stakeholders?

16 MS. FOIZEN: So just
17 specifically on this project, this is
18 on the mobile services, yes, there's
19 always been planning discussions with
20 the community going on. But this one
21 specifically is really intentionally
22 focused exactly on what Councilmember
23 Lozada was asking us to focus on.

24 And so, what is the
25 appropriate location for these mobile

1 services that are needed, but where
2 can we place them where people can
3 still access them but create the
4 least harm for the community. And
5 so, that's the piece that's starting,
6 and it came directly from a lot of
7 these advocacies from the community
8 and from (inaudible) as well.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: And
10 thirdly, did I understand you to say
11 that most of the payment to these
12 social service organizations come --
13 you're like a passthrough? If state
14 money or federal money or grant
15 money, it's not from the City's
16 budget?

17 MS. FOIZEN: So since I'm on
18 the record, I want to make sure that
19 I get back to you on that piece
20 specifically. So I'll provide a list
21 of the providers that we know are
22 providing mobile services that are
23 attending this planning effort and
24 what percentage of them that the City
25 is providing them payment for.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: And in
2 addition, can you respond to Member
3 Lozada's census count of who's
4 getting service? Is there a way that
5 we can find out that number on a
6 daily, weekly, monthly, yearly basis?

7 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah, I think
8 that's something that we can work
9 together to get that. There are
10 various outreach and engagement teams
11 out there that do keep a census of
12 who they're dealing with. There is
13 the Point-in-Time count that happens
14 every year. And so, that's one of
15 our data points that we look at. But
16 I think that's definitely something
17 that we can between our teams come up
18 with a number that -- there's a
19 weekly count that happens, which I
20 know a lot of the Councilmembers are
21 aware of, but that's not necessarily
22 counting individuals who are
23 homeless. It's more counting
24 activity on the street at 3 o'clock
25 in the morning, which there is a lot

1 of unfortunately.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Are
3 these mobile units permitted units?
4 Do they have permits for the services
5 that they're providing?

6 MS. FOIZEN: And so, that's
7 the piece that we're looking into.
8 And so, there are -- the City
9 providers, so for example wound care,
10 the wound care van that's out that
11 the City is funding that we have a
12 contract with them to provide this
13 service, they are permitted and
14 licensed to provide that service.

15 What we're looking into is do
16 other providers need to have that
17 level of licensure to be providing
18 these medical services, specifically
19 because of the level of medical care
20 that's required as a result of
21 Xylazine and the drug supply. And
22 so, we want to make sure that if
23 there are providers out there that
24 are providing medical services, that
25 they have the correct licenses. And

1 so, that's what we're looking into
2 with the Law Department right now.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: What
4 happens to mobile units that show up
5 in our community that are not working
6 directly with the City of
7 Philadelphia, who don't have permits,
8 who are these community do-gooders
9 and who don't follow any of the
10 rules? What happens with them? Who
11 is responsible for enforcing them,
12 removing them and --

13 MS. FOIZEN: So depending on
14 what service they're providing in the
15 community, there's different answers
16 around the enforcement piece. And
17 so, for example, meal position, every
18 provider that's serving meals is
19 required to get a permit from the
20 Health Department, and they have to
21 go through a ServSafe course, but the
22 permit is not necessarily providing
23 approval to provide the service at a
24 specific location, and that's a piece
25 that the City is trying to figure

1 out, like how can we do a better job
2 around permitting locations.

3 For donated goods, there's no
4 ability to enforce around that right
5 now. We've looked into it with L&I
6 and the Law Department. If they were
7 selling the goods, then there's a
8 standard fee for vending and then
9 there's enforcement around that. But
10 someone who's pulling up and just
11 donating goods, there's really not
12 anything we can do specifically
13 around that. That's not to say that
14 the police department doesn't ask
15 people to stop or sort of explain
16 what's going on, like, hey, you're
17 dropping off all this stuff in the
18 middle of the park where kids are
19 going to be, do you think that's a
20 good idea.

21 There's a lot of those kinds
22 of conversations with providers. But
23 from an enforcement piece, that's
24 part of this planning effort. That's
25 part of us really coming back to the

1 community with really clear answers,
2 like this is what we can do and this
3 is what we can't do. And I think we
4 haven't finished our research yet,
5 but I do anticipate that there
6 probably will be a request for
7 support on legislation around that
8 piece.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

10 Chair recognizes Member Gauthier.

11 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
12 you, Mr. Chair.

13 Good evening. I wanted to
14 start by commending you for the depth
15 and the breadth of work that you're
16 doing with the Opioid Response Unit.
17 It's just an incredible amount of
18 work. And as Councilmember Jones
19 said, you're also leading
20 the orchestra, right. So I think
21 that's commendable.

22 I have a related question
23 about community engagement and
24 community touchpoints. I know that
25 even when we're doing a ton of work

1 there can be a mismatch between what
2 the City is delivering and what
3 people in communities actually need
4 or people in communities getting a
5 particular service in a way that they
6 need it or where they need it.

7 When we were here the first
8 time a couple of months ago, we heard
9 a lot of requests from the community.
10 A lot of it was basic quality-of-life
11 services. And so, that has me
12 wondering what are our touchpoints,
13 right. I would want to see in a
14 crisis situation that we have clear,
15 transparent and very frequent
16 communication with people who are
17 impacted about what it is that we're
18 doing, how that's working, what might
19 need to be tweaked and changed.

20 So I wanted to hear a little
21 bit about those touchpoints and how
22 the orchestra is getting feedback
23 from the people who actually live in
24 the community, as well as a lot of
25 folks who are out here trying to do

1 service provision. What do those
2 touchpoints look like and how
3 frequently do they happen?

4 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah. Thank you
5 for that question. I actually think
6 that piece is really important
7 because I think especially with the
8 City's response around this piece, I
9 think the community often voices that
10 they have felt sort of left behind
11 and that all of our services are not
12 focused on them. And so, that's
13 definitely -- I have four strategies
14 for my plan. And one is just focused
15 on the community for community
16 support, to make sure that we're
17 really intentional around that.

18 How we get that, so we work
19 really closely with the civic leaders
20 and CDC leaders. And so, that's been
21 our way of doing it. What I like
22 about this Kensington Plan effort
23 that NKCDC and Impact are pulling
24 together is that it's getting more
25 voices to the table, which I think is

1 really important, and just through a
2 couple of the meetings I've been in
3 and just hearing additional
4 perspective on things.

5 And also just the level of
6 empathy from these community
7 residents, like the stuff that
8 they're experiencing. It would be
9 okay if they didn't have as much
10 empathy as they had, right, but they
11 really do and they always have such
12 great perspective on things that
13 we're doing. And they call us out on
14 stuff when it's not working. And so,
15 I really appreciate that feedback.

16 And so, to answer your
17 question more directly I'd say
18 initially we have sort of been
19 working with the leadership of the
20 groups. But now we're trying to
21 figure out what does that look like
22 to have more voices at the table, to
23 make sure that we're part of this
24 larger planning effort to make sure
25 that we're bringing that information

1 back.

2 And I will say I do have to
3 give a shout-out to all the
4 departments in this room because
5 while I'm sort of the conductor,
6 they're the ones that actually do the
7 work, right. And so, they're the
8 ones that should get credit where
9 credit's due for things that are
10 working and help support and stuff.
11 And so, I couldn't do any of my work
12 without all the people that are
13 sitting behind me.

14 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:
15 Absolutely. Thank you. And I didn't
16 mean to leave out all of the agencies
17 that are carrying out this incredible
18 work.

19 I respect CDCs, civic, you
20 know, I come from that world prior to
21 Council. I do think that there's a
22 difference between sort of engagement
23 that involves community leaders and
24 engagement that's for everybody. I
25 would want to see in a situation like

1 this what if we had a standing
2 meeting or a standing engagement that
3 people who live here can come and
4 hear about what the City is doing and
5 comment on how that's working for
6 them.

7 I think if we're working
8 around the clock on this issue here
9 in Kensington and people here don't
10 know what we're doing or don't feel
11 like they're being noticed by the
12 City, that's a problem, right. And
13 so, a piece of that is engagement.
14 And I don't think that we can just
15 lean on a specific core group.

16 I think that there has to be a
17 venue for people who live in this
18 neighborhood to understand on a
19 consistent basis what's happening and
20 to get feedback on that. So I would
21 encourage us to develop more of a
22 concrete strategy around broad
23 engagement. Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
25 Member. Are you --

1 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER:

2 (Nodded head).

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before we
4 go to Member Harrity,
5 recommendations, I want our scribe to
6 write them down. There was a
7 question of distribution of
8 resources. The question I was always
9 asked is how many and how much did it
10 cost, how many people did we serve,
11 how much did it cost.

12 And so, whether it's our City
13 dollars, state dollars, federal
14 dollars, we have to be accountable.
15 If it ain't measured, it ain't
16 managed. I went to public school,
17 please forgive me, but we need to
18 have those answers to those questions
19 so that we know that this is working,
20 they're reaching a lot of people.
21 We're getting positive or negative
22 feedback, but we have to memorialize
23 that as the orchestra conductor.

24 With that, Member Harrity.

25 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Leading

1 me right in there, Madam Conductor,
2 since you like that title, my
3 question is fairly simple. You heard
4 us up here when we started, our
5 Chairman Jones, District
6 Councilperson Lozada and myself say
7 that what's been going on is not
8 working.

9 Since you're the conductor,
10 I'd like to just know, A, if you
11 agree with that statement. And if
12 so, give me one example of something
13 that isn't working that you plan on
14 changing? And then I'll have another
15 question after that.

16 MS. FOIZEN: And so, it's not
17 that I think that things aren't
18 working. I think that things are not
19 at the scale that they would need to
20 be at. So a great example is just
21 around the quality of life. There
22 are six different teams that are out
23 there every day cleaning. It does
24 not feel like that with the
25 community. That's the experience

1 that the community is having. That's
2 not the experience that they're
3 seeing, but there is a lot of
4 cleaning activities that's happening.

5 And I think about the
6 residents and what they're
7 experiencing but then also the
8 workers on those crews and just how
9 demoralizing that is for them to, you
10 know, they're cleaning up illegal
11 dumping spots and then they're
12 dumping on the same day.

13 And so, I think that's a great
14 example of we have a lot of activity
15 happening in the space. We have
16 multiple teams that are doing this
17 work in the space, but yet we're
18 still not making a difference. And
19 so, when Councilmember Lozada walked
20 us a through a plan today of can we
21 look at -- do we have full activity,
22 is it that it's not the right
23 schedule or are we not doing it at
24 the right time, is it did we clean
25 out the right equipment.

1 And so, just trying to do that
2 analysis of what we're doing and see
3 if we're able to get to scale with
4 the current resources we have or does
5 it require for us to get more. I
6 think that's a really good example of
7 the sort of scale that we're asking.

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: So you're
9 not actually saying that you think
10 things are not going well here. You
11 seem to think that things are good --

12 MS. FOIZEN: Oh, I don't --

13 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: -- here.
14 And you know --

15 MS. FOIZEN: I want to make
16 sure that it's clear --

17 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Being
18 from the community what you're doing
19 is not helping, not working and not
20 in the slightest bit appeasing to
21 residents of this City.

22 Madam Conductor, as you say,
23 it comes all down to your
24 coordination. And, you know, I just
25 would like to see some better

1 coordination and maybe some more
2 feedback and maybe some more
3 community groups.

4 I don't know if my wife
5 Marnie -- have you gotten any
6 information from them for Kensington
7 and the civic groups, people that are
8 actually in the neighborhood?

9 MS. HARRITY: (Inaudible).

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Another
11 thing, my District Councilperson
12 hinted to these people that are down
13 there giving out food and trying to
14 service these people without their
15 permits and doing it illegally, are
16 creating a lot of that trash that
17 they're having to come out and pick
18 back up again.

19 You'll see them pull up with
20 the van at Kensington Avenue and they
21 sit there and they give out fruit and
22 they give out food, and then they
23 leave all their crap sitting there.
24 The residents are tired and we get --
25 listen, I've been a City employee.

1 I was a staffer for almost 30 years
2 off and on. I've done almost every
3 job possible, including working in
4 the Managing Director's Office with
5 the NTI program, so I know it can be
6 done because we did it already.

7 We did clean in this area.

8 I'm not going to mention any names,
9 but some other people came in and let
10 it all go to hell again. But I know
11 it can happen because it has
12 happened. And for me, it all starts
13 with you, Madam Conductor, being a
14 good conductor and leading this
15 sympathy -- symphony of departments
16 that you have under you and the
17 electeds in the room that are also
18 coordinating, you know.

19 No disrespect, but if I got to
20 pick somebody that's on my list,
21 you're on my list because I'm not
22 seeing it, I'm not feeling it. I've
23 been here for a minute now
24 complaining and I have seen no
25 difference in what my neighbors have

1 to deal with, that our children have
2 to deal with. And I will give it a
3 break on that because, you know, I'm
4 just an emotional kind of guy. It's
5 the Irish in me.

6 But I have some honest
7 questions. So here in Council we
8 allocated \$10 million for signing
9 bonuses for first responders and
10 hard-to-fill positions such as
11 building inspectors, which we need
12 drastically too as well as police and
13 paramedics.

14 The idea was to compete with
15 New York, Miami and Washington, D.C.,
16 who were also giving \$20,000 signing
17 bonuses to recruit cops. I talked
18 about it before. There was a
19 billboard on 95 saying be a Miami
20 police officer, live on the beach,
21 20,000 sign-on bonus, \$79,000 to
22 start. I get the cost of living is a
23 little more down there, but we pay
24 our officers peanuts and expect them
25 to lay their lives on the line every

1 day. And I just want to make sure
2 that the Managing Director's Office
3 and you guys in that field are going
4 to actually spend the money where
5 it's supposed to be.

6 So my real question is,
7 there's 3 million that we allocated
8 for recruitment. Is there any plan
9 on how we could actually advertise
10 and get an actual recruitment thing,
11 like be all you can be, join the
12 Army, you know what I'm saying. We
13 need to be out there promoting and
14 quite frankly showing them that we're
15 there to support them?

16 (Witness approached
17 Witness table.)

18 MS. GLADSTEIN: If I could
19 begin to respond and --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Come up to
21 the mic, state your name and respond
22 to the question please.

23 MS. GLADSTEIN: Thank you,
24 Councilman. Trying to make sure I'm
25 close enough to the mic. My name is

1 Eva Gladstein, First Deputy Managing
2 Director. I want to do two things.
3 With regards to the first question,
4 Councilman Harrity, I want to make
5 sure the record is clear that I do
6 not believe that Noelle Foizen, the
7 Director of the Overdose Response
8 Unit, said that we are satisfied with
9 what's happening.

10 We understand as I think she
11 expressed our dissatisfaction. But
12 what she talked about was one example
13 where we could improve by scaling up
14 certain activities. And we'll
15 continue to talk throughout the
16 evening about ways that we can
17 improve what we're doing and see
18 better results.

19 With regard to your second
20 question about police recruitment,
21 there was \$1 million that was
22 received through -- thank you to City
23 Council -- the midyear transfer
24 ordinance, and that was fully spent
25 within maybe two months and you might

1 have seen SEPTA advertising, a lot of
2 social media and some billboards.

3 And to your point, Councilman
4 Harrity, even though we had very
5 little time, we did make sure that
6 there were billboards that were on
7 I-95 at least towards communities
8 where we would recruit. Now, there
9 is \$3 million available. We had
10 begun to meet and plan that, the
11 expenditure of those funds based upon
12 what we have learned from the
13 \$1 million. I personally was in this
14 last meeting on that. Of course we
15 didn't actually have the ability to
16 use the money until July 1st, but
17 we're working on that with great
18 speed and understand the need for us,
19 and I'll turn it over to (inaudible).

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Okay. So
21 just --

22 COUNCILMAN JONES: Pull your
23 mic.

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Sorry.
25 One more follow-up question just so

1 we're all on the same lines. Are we
2 going to be doing any kind of ads or
3 recruitment to get more people that
4 look like the neighborhood actually
5 policing the neighborhood? I know
6 we've been doing pretty good with it,
7 but I believe we need to be targeting
8 certain neighborhoods, like
9 Kensington for instance.

10 There are good people here and
11 we need to let them know that there
12 is a spot for them on the police
13 department. And if they're willing
14 to work at it, then we're willing to
15 work with them. And I'd like to know
16 what you're going to do to kind of
17 bring neighborhood policing, more
18 people that look more like the
19 neighborhoods they're serving?

20 MS. GLADSTEIN: I think the
21 answer is absolutely yes. We're
22 looking at trying to analyze how
23 people who respond to this, which I
24 think is still open right now, until
25 the 16th -- well, just closed -- and

1 then targeting the recruitment going
2 forward. We did ask people how they
3 heard about the campaign and who they
4 heard it from, et cetera. We'll be
5 using that data for the next set of
6 resources for that matter and --

7 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Since you
8 brought that up, I did see that you
9 are offering a bonus now of \$2,000.
10 With the \$10 million we put over
11 there, I'm hoping that is going to go
12 up because you put your life on the
13 line and \$2,000 really isn't going to
14 cut it.

15 (Witness approached
16 Witness table.)

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: And are we
18 getting responses?

19 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Yeah.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
21 name for the record, although I know
22 who you are.

23 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW:
24 (Inaudible). User error.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: There we

1 go.

2 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Good
3 evening. Thank you. Danielle
4 Outlaw, Police Commissioner. We're
5 still actually gathering the data
6 from this campaign that just ended on
7 the 16th. We look at that as a good
8 opportunity to not only treat it as a
9 police project, but to really see how
10 impactful it was.

11 To circle back, yes, we did
12 make sure that we hit all areas, not
13 just to ensure diversity and the
14 things that we can't change, but to
15 make sure that we reach all people
16 from all walks of life, maybe
17 previous experience, school teachers,
18 social workers, you name it.

19 So I think once we're able to
20 take a look at the number of
21 applications that we received, who
22 actually responded based off of the
23 marketing campaign that rolled out,
24 we'll be able to have more solidified
25 answers and we'll be able to circle

1 back to you.

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member
3 Harrity.

4 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: The only
5 other question I would ask is that
6 are you doing any kind of let's say
7 preresearch or prereaching out trying
8 to grab some of these kids in the
9 schools, maybe reaching out to some
10 of these colleges to some of these
11 kids that are in there?

12 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: The
13 answer is yes to that, including
14 Lincoln and Cheyney. I think, one,
15 we've talked about this upon my
16 arrival here. We had to build a
17 pipeline, right, and we're also
18 competing not just with other law
19 enforcement agencies, but with other
20 just businesses in the private sector
21 who offer the ability to work from
22 home and pay more money and so on and
23 so forth. And the military is
24 actually even having recruiting
25 issues now as well. So it's not just

1 us.

2 I think the points that you
3 make are valid and we have to present
4 ourselves and market ourselves in a
5 relatable way, but then also develop
6 a pipeline simultaneously. So, yes,
7 we are doing that and we also
8 recognize that officers that might be
9 white shirts, but our police officers
10 that are on the ground are some of
11 the best recruiters as well. So it
12 shouldn't just be us looking at
13 incentivizing those who want to come.
14 We should also maybe be looking at
15 those officers who bring others in,
16 to compensate them as a bonus for
17 bringing someone in that successfully
18 passes through the entire process
19 and --

20 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: That's
21 something that I like. You know,
22 they do it all over the place in all
23 kinds of businesses. You get a
24 little bit of a bonus if you bring
25 somebody in, if they last longer than

1 so many months, in our case past the
2 academy, something like that, that is
3 a great idea. And anything we can do
4 to get the word of mouth out there.
5 And make it like it was, a good job
6 with good people just trying to
7 protect and serve and get home to
8 their families.

9 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Yes,
10 sir.

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Before I
12 recognize Member Johnson, you can
13 fill two books with what I don't know
14 about tactics and law enforcement.
15 However, what I would question, is it
16 a question of more officers or a
17 slight change in policy about what is
18 acceptable behavior in a neighborhood
19 and what is offensive, actionable,
20 law enforcement actionable issues in
21 the neighborhood and is Kensington
22 like an outlier, unique, that we have
23 drawn a circle around and said, well,
24 this is where things are tolerated?

25 And I don't mean people

1 shooting up, which I mentioned on the
2 record I saw somebody doing it. And
3 I guess we can argue that that is a
4 question of treatment. I get that
5 part, but I met a business person on
6 the way in the door who said that he
7 can't open his store because people
8 are stealing in ways that doesn't
9 create a good business model to stay
10 open.

11 So I understand overpolicing.
12 I understand -- is there sea shift of
13 change that needs to happen that says
14 that for you to walk in and take
15 goods off the shelf is not
16 acceptable? And so, whether we have
17 more police on the streets in that
18 situation or less, would that change
19 the dynamic here? And I know that's
20 a tricky question, but answer it in a
21 way that will be recommended to us to
22 be helpful to you.

23 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: I think
24 the answer is both, right. So
25 whatever the strategy is you're going

1 to need your personnel to enforce
2 whatever it is. The biggest thing is
3 we're the entryway. We're the
4 gatekeepers into the criminal justice
5 system, right.

6 So we make an arrest. There's
7 a large ecosystem that's beyond the
8 police once we make the arrest,
9 beyond the DA's Office and so forth.
10 We all have to be on the same page as
11 to what we're prioritizing. So if we
12 say, look, today or wherever city-
13 wide, it's not okay to do whatever it
14 is we're talking about. Everybody
15 needs to be in agreement that it's
16 not okay to do this. Because my
17 folks are out here day-in, day-out.
18 We can do narcotic sweeps. We can do
19 whatever it is and we can make the
20 arrests. We have the tables. We
21 show the guns. We show the drugs.
22 We do all of this.

23 But if somewhere later down
24 the road it falls apart because it's
25 not prioritized in the same way, and

1 I'm not talking about any one
2 particular entity at this time, we
3 have to make sure that we're focusing
4 on the backend, right. So when we
5 come in, what are we doing to sustain
6 the efforts, right, because we can't
7 have police on the corner 24/7.

8 What are we doing to make sure
9 that if this person is going to be
10 out of custody, that there's
11 something to sustain that enforcement
12 effort and to make sure that they're
13 not revisiting, right, and we heard
14 about recidivism rates earlier. But
15 everybody in the room has a part.
16 We've all been working together.

17 But I think to the point is if
18 it's brought up to scale and we all
19 share that same prioritization, I
20 think we'll see what we're trying to
21 see. But right now we enforce what
22 we're being told to enforce.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Got it.
24 Chair recognize --

25 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Who's

1 telling what to enforce? Is it the
2 Mayor? Who is it?

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're going
4 to find some solutions.

5 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I mean
6 I --

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: And this
8 is what we're here for today. This
9 is exactly what we're here for today,
10 because we have to get to the point
11 where we stop being so correct,
12 right. At some point everyone in
13 this room has to realize that we have
14 failed this community as a result of
15 people not wanting to say, this is
16 the person who said I should not do
17 it or this is the person that said I
18 have to stop doing it or I can't do
19 it. That has to end.

20 I'm going to use you an
21 example -- before you respond, I'm
22 going to use an example. We had new
23 tents going up. Somehow or another
24 opioid dollars got distributed, got
25 disbursed. We started to see all of

1 these community groups got funded.

2 We started to see new tents packing
3 up everything. We asked police to
4 get rid of these tents. They've not
5 been up for 72 hours. We need to get
6 rid of them immediately. They start
7 to do the work and they get told by
8 somebody stand down. Why? Why?

9 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: So
10 here's the answer to that. This is
11 the very real answer to that. There
12 isn't a somebody. What we see, we're
13 human beings. So if we make an
14 arrest and we see that this person
15 was back out on the street, after so
16 many arrests and so many returns back
17 on the street, human beings are going
18 to shut down and say, well, you know
19 what, maybe this isn't the way I'm
20 supposed to be doing it.

21 There's not a direction coming
22 from the sky saying, all right, you
23 are not to do this, you are not to do
24 that, right, as it relates to certain
25 things. The laws are what they are.

1 We enforce the law. Now, we have
2 been told when it comes to certain
3 things, using drugs on the street or
4 open air drug use, and there are
5 people behind me that can attest to
6 this that deal with this every day
7 that we do have parameters. There
8 are certain things that we need to do
9 in order to test drugs and make sure
10 that they're drugs before we make
11 this arrest, so on and so forth,
12 right.

13 So again, this isn't a
14 pointing of fingers. But I think
15 folks have to be very clear, when we
16 say we're prioritizing, when I say
17 I'm going out, my people are going
18 out and they're doing a sweep, that's
19 because we prioritized open air drug
20 use, we prioritize guns, we
21 prioritize all the illegal things
22 that you see. So that means that the
23 expectation is that later on down the
24 road as it goes through the pipeline,
25 that everyone else shares the same

1 priority and there's consequences for
2 that.

3 There's not a voice coming
4 from the sky saying that this isn't
5 going to happen or this is going to
6 happen. It's when we see these
7 people back out, we all walk away and
8 we figure, well, I guess -- but we're
9 going to keep at it. So it is
10 important to have us in this room.
11 But I think some of the other folks
12 in this room need to answer some of
13 these questions too.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I'm
15 going to hold that and let patient
16 Member Johnson give his point of
17 information. Put that mic on and
18 pull it up a little bit. Okay.

19 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
20 want to give a point of information
21 before I ask my own questions
22 regarding and it goes along the lines
23 of what the Chairman talked about
24 regarding businesses in this
25 community in a threshold of how much

1 you can steal and get away with,
2 right.

3 So can you clarify the actual
4 policy? And I know prepandemic I
5 think we kind of relaxed, like going
6 after the individuals going inside
7 stores, but I think we just lost a
8 Wawa, we lost businesses along the
9 commercial corridor. I'm just trying
10 to get clarity on that actual policy
11 because that may be something that we
12 have to examine and take a look at as
13 we move forward.

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:
15 Good evening, Council. My name's
16 Frank Vanore. I'm the Deputy
17 Commissioner of Investigations. So
18 our policy as far as what we do has
19 never changed. If we're called and
20 we arrive and we're told someone has
21 stolen something from the business,
22 we arrest them and we follow the
23 state statute.

24 Now, all that does is it goes
25 in and it gets processed. What

1 happens after is out of our control.
2 So the state statute is pretty clear
3 on first arrest. It could be a
4 summary if it's under \$150. Once it
5 advances, that goes up to a
6 misdemeanor and then could even
7 advance into a felony if it's done a
8 third time. So that's all done once
9 they verify fingerprints and things
10 come back through our records system.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Have you
12 seen an increase in this particular
13 area, calls from businesses regarding
14 individuals going inside stores every
15 day stealing?

16 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE: I
17 can look at that. I can do a little
18 analysis. We have been doing a
19 project in Center City really looking
20 because they were one of the high
21 areas in the City for retail theft,
22 and we really increased our
23 communication with the DA's Office,
24 with the businesses in getting the
25 prolific people identified and

1 removed out of the (inaudible).

2 We're moving that in South
3 Philadelphia now, and we're starting
4 to work with the same businesses. A
5 lot of them are shared. We did a
6 little bit in the Northeast, but I
7 will definitely start to look at this
8 area and do the same thing.

9 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: You
10 haven't looked at this area?

11 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:
12 Well, we're doing -- we're policing
13 it --

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I got no
15 stores, no stores. No disrespect and
16 I apologize. I'm very respected by
17 the police. But please don't pull a
18 (inaudible,) you understand. We need
19 something to happen. We need it to
20 happen now. I'm out on the street
21 every day. I talk to these business
22 people. They say they call, they're
23 told that they can't do nothing about
24 it because they're not going to come
25 out.

1 All we're trying to get to is
2 where is the breakdown, where is the
3 lapse. What can we do to fix that
4 lapse. That's what we need. That's
5 what we want. How do we support you
6 in doing your job of taking these
7 people off our streets that are
8 terrorizing our neighborhoods and
9 neighbors, dude. I got --

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Why are
11 we starting now?

12 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Yeah, why
13 are we starting now?

14 DEPUTY COMMISSIONER VANORE:
15 Let me clarify what I said. We're
16 working in the same way we always
17 have. When we get called, we make an
18 arrest. When I say look at it, I'm
19 talking about analytics. How can we
20 do it better, how can we zero in on
21 the people that are terrorizing the
22 business, and that's what they're
23 doing in Center City --

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY:
25 (Inaudible).

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: If I could,
2 I'm going to recognize Member Squilla
3 who also represents this
4 neighborhood.

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I --

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: I will --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Yeah, my
8 last question.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- go back
10 to Member Johnson.

11 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Thank
12 you, Mr. Chairman, and I'll be brief.

13 That was part of my point of
14 information, but I want to thank the
15 District Councilmember Quetcy Lozada
16 for leading the charge with a more
17 reinvigorated path around wrapping
18 our arms around this issue
19 collectively.

20 I just want to get an idea
21 from Ms. Noelle, one, when did the
22 Kensington Plan begin; two, what is
23 the metrics that are being used,
24 right, and the goals that you are
25 focusing on and how you are measuring

1 success in this particular area that
2 makes the Kensington Plan that you're
3 working on different than any other
4 plan that we're working on across the
5 City of Philadelphia.

6 And last but not least that I
7 believe is the most important part of
8 that question is how often are
9 yourself and the other agencies, are
10 y'all meeting weekly quarterbacking
11 and addressing that issue because
12 that will reflect that there's a
13 sense of urgency in addressing this
14 issue?

15 And we recognize as leaders in
16 government, we can come together when
17 something is important. We just saw
18 the I-95, you know, certain
19 businesses along the corridor, we
20 want to make sure commerce flowed up
21 and down I-95, but nevertheless it
22 showed that we can come together and
23 be successful, but that issue is all
24 about money.

25 This is about primarily Black

1 and Brown people, right, people of
2 color, right, that live inside this
3 community, right. And so, where's
4 the sense of urgency in terms of how
5 we address the issues of the
6 community. So I want to get an idea
7 of when did y'all start, how are you
8 measuring success in terms of how
9 you're going to be moving forward?

10 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah. Thank you
11 for that question. So I'll start
12 with your third question first. We
13 meet specifically on Kensington --

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
15 name again for the record for the
16 stenographer.

17 MS. FOIZEN: Oh, sure. Noelle
18 Foizen, Director of the Opioid
19 Response Unit, Managing Director's
20 Office. So specifically on
21 Kensington we meet weekly. City
22 department leadership is meeting
23 weekly on Kensington. On public
24 safety, we have an every Friday
25 weekly meeting specifically on

1 Kensington public safety at the
2 public safety meeting. It's the
3 Philadelphia Police Department,
4 District Attorney's Office, SEPTA,
5 the School District, Town Watch,
6 Office of Criminal Justice. So
7 specifically for public safety, we're
8 meeting weekly on that and when we go
9 back, we'll be taking things back
10 from this hearing back to that
11 meeting and seeing how we can
12 operationalize the things that were
13 raised today around that space.

14 You asked about the Kensington
15 Plan. I want to make clear the
16 Kensington Plan is not my plan. It's
17 not a plan that the City is owning at
18 all, and the plan hasn't -- it's in
19 the process of starting. And so,
20 there's not a plan that's been
21 written. It's not documented. It's
22 not -- they are starting from a point
23 where they looked at they each had a
24 plan already, so they did an analysis
25 of that plan. They looked at where

1 they overlap and now they're
2 launching the planning process.

3 The planning process is being
4 started now. The City is
5 participating in the plan where we're
6 making sure that we're bringing
7 resources and supporting it. The
8 first two efforts that they were
9 taking up as part of the planning
10 process is looking at the parks and
11 schools --

12 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Just real
13 quick for clarification, the
14 Kensington Plan is just being
15 started?

16 MS. FOIZEN: Yes.

17 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: So what's
18 the City of Philadelphia's plan? Is
19 that similar to the Opioid Response
20 Team that --

21 MS. FOIZEN: (Nodded head).

22 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Okay.
23 Can you provide clarity around
24 operation of the Opioid Response Team
25 specifically for the Kensington area?

1 MS. FOIZEN: Okay. Yes. So I
2 just wanted to clear that up, the
3 Kensington Plan is a community-led
4 plan --

5 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I'm just
6 going off of your testimony. You
7 said, hey, join the Kensington Plan.
8 So it gives the impression that it's
9 city-led.

10 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah, that's
11 because I want to make sure that
12 people know about it because they're
13 still trying to get additional voices
14 at the table and I try to promote it
15 as much as possible, but it's
16 definitely not -- I'm not leading the
17 planning effort. I'm just a part of
18 it.

19 Separately we do a response
20 unit. We have an action plan we put
21 together every year, specifically in
22 four areas around prevention,
23 treatment, public safety and
24 community support. There's multiple
25 action items that the departments are

1 assigned and that we're working on.

2 Each year we update it so we're
3 constantly -- there's multiple
4 metrics that we're tracking and we're
5 happy to share the plan with --

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Can you
7 provide a copy of that report --

8 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah.

9 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- to the
10 District Councilwoman and the Chair
11 and all of us so we can also have a
12 part of it as we move forward in the
13 process?

14 MS. FOIZEN: Yes. And as part
15 of that plan, so my unit we are city-
16 wide, so the open-air crisis is
17 city-wide. There's copies of the
18 plan, I can get them to you today.
19 The unit is city-wide, but we do
20 spend a majority of our time focused
21 on Kensington because it is the
22 epicenter, but I might be remiss if I
23 didn't say the overdoses are rising
24 in every neighborhood in the City of
25 Philadelphia, specifically impacting

1 Black and Brown communities outside
2 of Kensington as well.

3 So my job is making sure that
4 we don't take our foot off the gas at
5 all in Kensington but trying to
6 figure out how we can also increase
7 outreach and engagement and education
8 on overdose risk in other communities
9 as well.

10 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: And last
11 but not least and because the opioid
12 response team is specifically
13 focusing on Kensington, from the
14 Administration's standpoint are we
15 investing additional dollars in
16 resources around this particular
17 issue totally separate than what
18 we're doing across the City in terms
19 of us addressing this
20 state-of-emergency approach, because
21 again what's taking place in
22 Kensington isn't taking place in all
23 parts of the City of Philadelphia?
24 Irregardless of what people look like
25 in their neighborhood, it's not

1 taking place across the City of
2 Philadelphia.

3 It's like Kensington has a
4 special treatment where you kind of
5 do what you want to do, right. So
6 I'm trying to figure out are we
7 aggressively saying we're being
8 intentional by investing resources
9 and support in this particular part
10 of the City of Philadelphia, because
11 it is a crisis nationally and even
12 globally. People point to Kensington
13 as an example of what not to do in
14 terms of operating, moving forward in
15 a city. So I just want to see if
16 there's a special treatment for this
17 area.

18 MS. FOIZEN: Yeah, there's
19 definitely been some additional
20 funding identified for it. We can
21 always use more funding, as it was
22 talked about, like just to get
23 additional people and services and
24 resources out there. I don't think
25 we're at scale. For most of our

1 programs I don't think we have enough
2 resources that's needed for the
3 crisis.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Well, if I
5 could, Member Johnson.

6 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: Go ahead,
7 Mr. Chair.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: The reason
9 why Member Lozada, Member Harrity,
10 Member Squilla introduced the
11 Kensington Marshall Plan is so that
12 we would intensify, double-down on
13 what resources are uniquely needed
14 for here, because if these streets
15 aren't safe, nowhere is safe. And
16 then we want to look at other parts
17 of the District. I don't have a
18 Kensington, but if we're not able to
19 walk down those streets, then it's
20 not fair to anybody.

21 And so, you have about six
22 months before the 100th Mayor comes
23 in. And they're going to look to
24 these individuals on this stage and
25 say, what is the best sea change that

1 we can make and from the
2 municipality. The purpose of this
3 whole hearing is tell us what you
4 need now because in six months we
5 got -- every day we don't do
6 something it gets worse.

7 Again, yes, there is a problem
8 city-wide, but it's intensified right
9 here, and that a lot of times people
10 will go get orders to go into a
11 tavern, what do you need out of CVS,
12 what do you need, I'm going shopping
13 for you, personally shopping. We
14 have to send a signal that we care
15 about people's human needs. I got
16 members that fight for those kind of
17 resources, but we also have to fight
18 for the small business that takes
19 their treasure out of their pocket,
20 their life investment to make sure
21 that they don't -- I talked to a
22 gentleman outside who has to think
23 about whether or not this is even
24 worth it to him and his family, like
25 I'm investing all my money and it's

1 going right out the door.

2 So this plan, we don't have
3 forever. And as Member Johnson
4 talked about, we have to stop
5 measuring. We have to start -- we
6 want to put resources in other
7 neighborhoods, but we're not going
8 anywhere. We have a commitment to
9 the Members who represent this area.
10 This is Ground Zero, and that's not a
11 good designation. So as the
12 orchestra/conductor, we need to hear
13 the music.

14 I'm sorry. Member Squilla was
15 next.

16 MS. GLADSTEIN: Councilmember,
17 if I can just add a little something?

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Eva
19 Gladstein.

20 MS. GLADSTEIN: Thank you,
21 Councilman Jones. Just an example of
22 some of the things that were done
23 differently in Kensington would be
24 the establishment of the new Police
25 District, which is now several years

1 old at this point. The cleaning
2 schedule, which we all think is
3 inadequate, is well beyond what we do
4 in any other neighborhoods in the
5 City of Philadelphia.

6 And the investment that we had
7 made prior to the opioid settlement
8 and with the opioid settlement is
9 again far different than we do in
10 other neighborhoods. So this is not
11 totally inclusive because every
12 department breaks out its staffing
13 certain ways, but \$70 million
14 annually at a minimum that is going
15 to this community, and then again
16 some of the investments that Noelle
17 already spoke about in terms of
18 opioid settlement funds going in
19 really to be a significant investment
20 in this planning process, which is
21 not the City's but it is
22 community-engaged, it's
23 trauma-informed, it is being led by
24 the neighborhood. And that's why we
25 felt it was so important to get it

1 off the ground and to make it a very
2 real process so --

3 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: How much
4 did you say --

5 MS. GLADSTEIN: 70.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: 70
7 million?

8 MS. GLADSTEIN: Yes.

9 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I just
10 walked the community today with
11 providers who get grants or get money
12 from the City and federal, state
13 money to clean this neighborhood. In
14 all honesty when you walk this
15 neighborhood, do you think that
16 they're doing their jobs? In all
17 honesty is this the condition that
18 you would let your family walk around
19 in? Because I will -- and I'm
20 working with Noelle because I'm
21 really trying to be respectful to who
22 I believe are my colleagues in the
23 City. I don't want to embarrass
24 anybody. That's not my goal here.
25 But there are over seven or

1 eight different entities that get a
2 lot of money to clean this community.
3 Many of their services or many of
4 their times overlap. We can't see
5 it. We can't even walk on the
6 sidewalks. We walked about 10 blocks
7 today and we had to walk on the
8 street over piles of trash.

9 And I want to take the
10 opportunity to thank Deputy
11 Commissioner Keith Warren, who
12 consistently responds to our call as
13 it relates to trash, but there is no
14 way that trash is being addressed and
15 that it is a priority in this
16 neighborhood. There's no way.

17 And if it is, if you say it
18 is, then I need you to tell me what
19 we're going to do different because
20 70 million is obviously not enough.
21 I don't know how or the providers
22 that we are funding are not doing
23 their job and we need to figure out
24 how we redistribute that money.

25 MS. GLADSTEIN: So let me be

1 clear, we have already agreed today
2 it is not working. I think people
3 are working very hard. We don't see
4 the results of that work because we
5 either have to scale it up, change
6 the schedule or do both. But I want
7 to be clear that that \$70 million is
8 not only going towards cleaning.
9 It's going towards other resources as
10 well. I don't want that to be
11 misunderstood either.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: We need
13 it to go to cleaning. We need to
14 start peeling back on all of the
15 issues that we have in this
16 community. And some of the
17 low-hanging fruit that we discussed
18 in the last meeting that was
19 requested by the people of this
20 community was trash collection,
21 right.

22 We have agreed that we will do
23 a pilot, right, and that we will work
24 on 24-hour cleaning. But I've been
25 asking for that since November. So

1 why are we still here trying to
2 figure out if we can get everyone on
3 board to just pick up the trash. And
4 that means that in order for us to
5 have less trash, everyone here who
6 provides a service to this community
7 needs to do their work in order to
8 get rid of the people who are living
9 on the street who are putting the
10 trash on the street.

11 MS. GLADSTEIN: We welcome
12 your partnership with this. I just
13 want to respect as you do, and I know
14 everybody in Council does, the hard
15 work of the people who are behind
16 those trash trucks, who are out there
17 in the park and out there on the
18 streets. They are working hard.
19 They're doing things that I don't do
20 and I know many of us would find
21 very, very difficult to do.

22 We as a system have already
23 talked about the fact that we need to
24 increase that. That will take more
25 resources, people and money as well

1 as schedule changes. We've committed
2 to starting to work on that with you
3 and we'll continue to partner with
4 you on that.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
6 Member Lozada.

7 Chair recognizes Member
8 Squilla.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
10 you, Mr. Chair.

11 The Kensington Plan many were
12 saying it just started. There's been
13 a plan in Kensington for the last 10
14 years on how to deal with this issue.
15 Every time we go to a meeting we hear
16 the same ideas about how we're doing.
17 I don't care how much resources you
18 put in to what we're doing. If we're
19 not addressing the problem, it's not
20 going to fix the situation.

21 The problem is the people that
22 are on the street that are addicted
23 to drugs, are we looking at long-term
24 continual care? Are we looking at
25 how do we get these people into

1 treatment when they are endangering
2 themselves and the people around
3 them? Are we looking at the folks
4 that need the most help that are
5 being able to be -- and able to stay
6 on the street because of some of the
7 services that we provide, right?

8 We talk about open beds. We
9 have all these open beds for people
10 that are in addiction, right, but the
11 people aren't going. What are we
12 doing to address the problem to get
13 them off the street? And if people
14 cannot make the decision for
15 themselves, what are we doing working
16 with the state or others instead of a
17 302 or something else that we could
18 then commit them?

19 We created something called
20 AMP Court that's supposed to be able
21 to help people to be able to go into
22 treatment and to be done by a judge.
23 That is something that will be able
24 to help people. We spend a lot of
25 time and resources putting that

1 together. How are we working in that
2 (inaudible), in those steps to get
3 people into court and get people some
4 kind of treatment even though they
5 don't want to go?

6 We're tired of hearing that we
7 went and engaged them. Our folks do
8 a great job and our cleaning people
9 do a great job. I don't care how
10 much money you put into cleaning.
11 When we allow all the people to come
12 through trashing the street after
13 they're done cleaning, they got to
14 come back and do the same thing. So
15 the problem is that people on the
16 street, how are we getting them off
17 the street instead of saying that
18 it's okay for them to stay on the
19 street because they don't want to go
20 in. That is not an answer.

21 We have failed. They said
22 time and time again we do the same
23 thing over and over again and we
24 expect a different result. The
25 reason why the streets are the way

1 they are is because we allow people
2 to live on the street and said
3 because they're not hurting
4 themselves. They are killing
5 themselves slowly.

6 This is a public health
7 crisis. When we had COVID, right, we
8 closed stores. We closed shops. We
9 did whatever we needed to do so
10 people can't go out, right, so we can
11 protect them. What are we doing for
12 the people on street that are killing
13 themselves slowly? We're not doing
14 anything.

15 You know what we're doing?
16 We're giving them more help to stay
17 on the street. That's what our
18 policy has been. And our policy has
19 failed. It has failed because now we
20 have more people coming. The last
21 couple of times I've been down here,
22 the last two weeks were an influx of
23 people from Norristown. Why are
24 people from Norristown coming to
25 Philadelphia. I ran into seven

1 people, five of them are from
2 Norristown. I don't know why they're
3 here, but they're here because it's
4 okay for them to be here.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
6 (Inaudible).

7 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: For a
8 public health crisis, we close
9 stores, we close businesses.
10 Kensington is a public health crisis,
11 right. Not only with mental health
12 and addiction, but then you have
13 defecation, urination and everything
14 else that our kids have to walk
15 through, needles all over the place,
16 right.

17 Why don't we close the street
18 and say, hey, where do you live? You
19 live here, all right, you can go. If
20 not, you got to go into treatment.
21 You can't be on the street sleeping
22 here. Let's help these people.
23 Let's work with the state and work
24 with others to get them the
25 assistance they really need instead

1 of continuing to enable them to kill
2 themselves.

3 And we want to hear from
4 Health on what we're doing in that
5 aspect. And not only the nice sound
6 quotes of how many people we
7 assisted. We have open beds and
8 people don't go. Why don't they go.
9 We have mental assistance treatment
10 that we have vans out giving MAT out,
11 right, but we're still enabling
12 people to stay on the streets.

13 They can't take care of
14 themselves. They can't make a
15 decision for themselves. They're
16 hurting themselves and they're
17 hurting the people surrounding them.
18 What are we doing to help them get
19 them off the street?

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: So as we
21 ask you to address Member Squilla's
22 question on how we can be helpful, I
23 want to also recognize that Member
24 Kendra Brooks is with us.

25 Is there anyone from the

1 Administration that wishes to take on
2 the issue of homelessness and the
3 opportunity to treat people that are
4 in the Kensington area, many of whom
5 aren't from Philly, anyone?

6 DR. BETTIGOLE: Good evening.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good
8 evening. State your name.

9 DR. BETTIGOLE: Dr. Cheryl
10 Bettigole, Public Health
11 Commissioner. So I'm going to just
12 briefly address the public health
13 question and physical health question
14 and then I'm going to refer to my
15 colleague Dr. Jill Bowen from
16 Behavioral Health.

17 The laws on when we can treat
18 somebody against their will are
19 extremely strict in the state of
20 Pennsylvania, and requiring somebody
21 or providing medical care against
22 somebody's will is considered to be a
23 form of assault. Can you hear me?

24 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Come
25 closer.

1 DR. BETTIGOLE: I'm sorry.

2 Should I repeat what I just said?

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Yes.

4 DR. BETTIGOLE: So the laws of
5 the state of Pennsylvania about the
6 provision of medical care against
7 somebody's will are very, very
8 strict. And Dr. Bowen can talk more
9 about the 302 process. But
10 essentially providing medical care to
11 somebody against their will, except
12 in a very narrow circumstance, is
13 considered to be assault.

14 So while we might have many
15 situations where we desperately want
16 to provide medical care to somebody
17 who is saying no, we have to convince
18 them. We cannot just provide the
19 care that we feel is necessary
20 without their consent. I do want
21 to --

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Let me
23 stop you one second. We're going to
24 assault somebody by helping them,
25 right. So if we try to help somebody

1 it's going to be considered
2 assault --

3 DR. BETTIGOLE: Not if we try
4 to help them, but if we provide
5 medical care that they have not
6 agreed to, that is not something that
7 we are allowed to under Pennsylvania
8 law.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Well,
10 then we need to work with our state
11 colleagues and legislators to help us
12 create a law so that we can help
13 people help themselves. If we're
14 going to allow people to slowly die
15 and say you know what, it's okay that
16 they do that because we'll be
17 assaulting them if not, it's not
18 helping. And it's definitely not
19 helping the people who live in this
20 community because that negatively
21 impacts them all around.

22 So I say that if you're going
23 to -- if we're going to use the law
24 in saying that helping somebody or
25 taking them in is considered assault,

1 then we have to change the law
2 because we know -- maybe it's not
3 considered 302. Maybe it's
4 considered something else. Are we
5 looking at other ways to get people
6 into treatment whether it's on their
7 will or against their will so they
8 have to complete it?

9 DR. BOWEN: I think that was
10 my segue.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The
12 easiest answer to that is
13 (inaudible).

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So you're
15 giving valuable testimony, but our
16 stenographer may not be able to
17 capture. So if I understood you
18 correctly, you agreed with Member
19 Lozada's point in where help and
20 distribution should occur and should
21 be spread out.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
23 (Inaudible).

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: Got it.

25 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: She's

1 saying the same thing like she first
2 started out.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

4 (Inaudible). So this is something
5 that I sat through six years
6 involving this community (inaudible).
7 This Administration created 30-day
8 encampments. This doesn't happen in
9 any other part of the City. They do
10 (inaudible).

11 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member
12 Squilla, do you have any other --

13 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Do you
14 want to respond?

15 DR. BOWEN: Yeah, I did. So
16 what I would like to respond to is
17 some of the points that you --
18 Dr. Jill Bowen, Commissioner of
19 Behavioral Health and Intellectual
20 Disability Services -- were making,
21 Councilman Squilla. And I also want
22 to go back to the purpose of this
23 hearing where you asked what's going
24 to be different. You asked how you
25 can help. You asked what we would do

1 if we had that kind of support. So I
2 would like to respond to that as
3 well, if I may. Okay.

4 So in terms of how do you get
5 people into treatment, so I want to
6 say that what we want, what we all
7 want is for people to be off the
8 street in treatment. And the goal is
9 long-term recovery. All right. So
10 that's the goal and that's what our
11 aim is. When something doesn't work,
12 we actually pivot from it, right, and
13 we try something else. When we've
14 been successful, success has
15 different definitions. It's not
16 successful for the community. They
17 are not seeing the results of all of
18 this effort. It's successful for
19 some of the people that made it into
20 treatment and into housing and are
21 having a life now that they wouldn't
22 have otherwise had.

23 We talk about harm reduction.
24 From our point of view, harm
25 reduction is Step 1, not step done,

1 because it's not just saving a life.
2 It's having a life that you live as a
3 quality of life. That means getting
4 into treatment, getting into
5 services, but there are problems
6 along the way and that's what we are
7 focusing on now intensively, are what
8 is the access problem to getting
9 people into treatment. Some yes,
10 some say no. But sometimes they say
11 no and then they say no, and then
12 they say yes. So you never stop,
13 right, you keep going.

14 And then you look at what is
15 it that is blocking really rapid
16 access. Of late, it's been those
17 wounds that have blocked people from
18 being able to get into --

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Why? Why
20 does the wound block access?

21 DR. BOWEN: So let me finish.
22 It blocks access because it's a
23 terrific wound that it needs medical
24 care before they can get off to the
25 rehab unit. So what we built for the

1 first time ever, the State is very
2 interested, the Feds are very
3 interested because nobody has done
4 this before anywhere, is that we
5 created a rehab program that comes
6 directly connected with the
7 post-acute services. So you can get
8 medical treatment and begin the rehab
9 and shift over. It's not been done
10 before. We created a sustainable
11 model. Now, the question is --

12 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That's
13 been done before because of policies.
14 It's been done before --

15 DR. BOWEN: It's not policy.
16 I'm sorry. It's not policy.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: It is so.

18 DR. BOWEN: It hadn't been
19 thought about how you switch through
20 regulations --

21 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Who makes
22 the regulations?

23 DR. BOWEN: -- and funding
24 sources.

25 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Who makes

1 the regulations?

2 DR. BOWEN: The regulations
3 are usually state regulations, but
4 you can work through them and find a
5 way through, and we did. The problem
6 is we now have a program that's
7 really effective and we need quite a
8 bit more of it.

9 What would work and would be
10 helpful in terms of a question to
11 Council is to scale up what is
12 effective where we are seeing things
13 that are working. And when I say
14 working, I mean what would work for
15 the community and work for the
16 individuals who are on the street is
17 to get off the street. That works
18 for everybody. So anything that's
19 effective doing that has to be scaled
20 up.

21 When we talk about recovery
22 houses where people can go and
23 there's not enough of them, we still
24 have a waiting list so people can get
25 in recovery houses. That would be a

1 place.

2 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: You said
3 there's a waiting list?

4 DR. BOWEN: To get into
5 recovery houses, so it's not the same
6 thing as a treatment bed. But, yes,
7 there is a waiting list for recovery
8 houses.

9 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: How about
10 for treatment beds?

11 DR. BOWEN: We do not have a
12 waiting list for treatment beds. The
13 question you had asked, Councilmember
14 Harrity, last time was about the
15 treatment beds, and we do not have a
16 waiting list to get into treatment
17 beds. It's over 2,000 beds. We
18 answered, I think we sent you that
19 response. It's over 2,000 beds in
20 our system. Today we have 56 beds
21 available. We do have access into
22 our treatment system.

23 What I'm talking about is the
24 recovery houses. To get people off
25 the street, we need low barriers so

1 that even if they're not completely
2 ready, they can come in, and we need
3 the regular recovery houses so that
4 they can come. But here's what
5 happens because I want to really be
6 clear that we're talking about system
7 change here if you really want to
8 have change. It's not about each
9 individual. It's about system
10 change, right.

11 What happens when somebody
12 comes out of the recovery house and
13 they've gone through treatment and
14 they go back out and they don't have
15 housing and they don't have a job.
16 Do we expect them to succeed if those
17 social determinants are not also
18 addressed.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: That's
20 what we need to provide. That's what
21 we need to be doing.

22 DR. BOWEN: Yes.

23 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Right --

24 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: That is
25 part of the Kensington Plan. Housing

1 is definitely a number one priority,
2 not only for us but for the new
3 Mayor. I know that I spoke to her on
4 numerous occasions. She's looking at
5 30,000, I'll take it, 30,000
6 affordable housing units. That would
7 be phenomenal.

8 But to that end, I have read
9 some studies coming out of Houston
10 who had a very bad problem with
11 homelessness. At one point, almost
12 66 percent of their residents were
13 homelessness because of mental
14 illness. And it was shocking because
15 most of their homelessness wasn't
16 because of drug -- it was part of it,
17 but it was partially because of their
18 cost of living and how much housing
19 cost there. And by installing the
20 housing first method, they were able
21 to drastically drop that.

22 So what I'm saying is if we
23 think about it on the lines of --
24 like you said, once they get out f
25 the treatment where are they going to

1 go. Well, we need to have that plan
2 ahead of time before they go into
3 treatment so that way it gives them a
4 better chance to succeed.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: So if I
6 could, for me to understand we don't
7 have a problem with the number of
8 recovery beds --

9 DR. BOWEN: Just to clarify --

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: -- we have
11 a problem with long-term housing.

12 DR. BOWEN: So yes, yes, no.
13 Let me just be clear, right. So
14 recovery housing is not the same as a
15 treatment bed. So --

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: Treatment
17 bed.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: It's a
19 halfway house.

20 DR. BOWEN: Well, even the
21 halfway houses is treatment, right,
22 because those are the (inaudible) you
23 may hear Level 3.5, Level 3.7 or 4.0
24 depending on what the needs are of
25 the person. So that's an actual

1 treatment that's billable through
2 managed care. That's treatment.

3 What a recovery house is it's
4 not treatment. It's not billable.

5 The City covers the cost for some of
6 them, right. We have about 500 beds.

7 I mean, it's not a small amount. We
8 need hundreds more, right. So those

9 beds are not treatment beds. So to
10 be clear, what happens then is people

11 come from treatment and can go into
12 those beds. And then they have

13 opportunity to go further along, some
14 more (inaudible) back out on the

15 street and back out on the street and
16 back on the street. But what happens

17 when they get through that process is
18 there needs to be another process.

19 We have to pay attention to
20 the impact of those social

21 determinants, poverty, housing, jobs.
22 We have to pay attention to that to

23 integrate that all into this plan,
24 into the system. We are intensively

25 working on that, but it is very

1 difficult. It's a very complex
2 problem. It's a huge problem.

3 In Philadelphia, half the
4 population is Medicaid eligible.
5 That speaks to the deep poverty in
6 this City. So we really have a very
7 significant --

8 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Well, we
9 have an opioid crisis here. I got a
10 little thing for you. How about we
11 go to some of these recovery houses
12 for people who are sitting there
13 unemployed and we try to fill the 1
14 in 5 jobs that we have vacant in the
15 City of Philadelphia.

16 DR. BOWEN: We do. We have
17 job programs. We have job programs
18 specifically. We have job training.
19 All of this is integrated into that
20 recovery house experience. And some
21 of them do come out -- even while
22 they're in that kind of recovery
23 experience, some of them are working.
24 Okay. But it's not just -- it's
25 connecting people to the jobs that

1 are sustainable for them, right.

2 That gets into --

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we
4 have a conversation about lessons
5 (inaudible). We have been through
6 these crises before with the crack
7 epidemic. There are people who are
8 sitting in the auditorium that are
9 experts that are not part of the
10 problem and you all are pointing
11 fingers back and forth at each other.
12 We're tired of it. Let some of
13 (inaudible) we are experts and we're
14 not getting an opportunity to voice
15 our opinion for our solutions.

16 COUNCILMAN JONES: That is a
17 fair statement. What I'd like to do
18 guys, we have an ambitious group to
19 testify. Can we expedite some of the
20 testifiers so that we can get to the
21 community.

22 Mr. Cohen.

23 DR. BOWEN: I just want to
24 clarify, if I may, I was talking
25 about (inaudible) recovery.

1 MS. BINGHAM: I'm sorry. I'm
2 going to go ahead and give my
3 testimony. My name is Sonja Bingham.
4 I'm a resident here in Harrowgate.
5 Many of you know me. I'm a balls-
6 and-strike type of girl. I call it
7 like I see it. Noelle, Liz, Jill,
8 we've been working together. You
9 continuously tell me how much you
10 appreciate my advocacy in the
11 community, but you don't.

12 The Kensington Plan meeting
13 happened last week. Shannon asked
14 why I wasn't involved. It's because
15 I'm not solution-based oriented,
16 right. I have solutions. We have
17 solutions in the room. The problem
18 here is your conflicted commitment,
19 right. You're conflicted in your
20 commitment. Because what has
21 happened here is we as community
22 residents now have to have a stake in
23 someone's recovery.

24 We have to have a stake in
25 whether someone has a home, but no

1 one has a stake whether our children
2 make it to school safely. No one has
3 a stake in how they're processing all
4 of the things that are happening
5 around them, but we have to be
6 concerned with people who do not have
7 the right to occupy the spaces that
8 they are. Those are ours, right.

9 I'm the President of the
10 Friends of Harrowgate Park. What
11 we've been left with is the police
12 officers to help us because none of
13 you have. We've been talking about
14 the same thing over and over and over
15 again. And to say you spent \$70
16 million, you are getting a return in
17 your investment because you are not
18 investing in us. It is not
19 happening.

20 Nothing has scaled in what
21 you're investing in, needle exchange
22 and making sure resources are being
23 brought here. We don't have the same
24 commitments from you. We watched
25 last month when we had a crisis in

1 our City how every agency lined up,
2 state, local, federal, everybody
3 lined up, we fixed Interstate 95 in
4 less than two weeks.

5 And we don't need \$70 million.

6 You know what we need, the same
7 principle I run my house. You can't
8 be here. My kids say, oh, I want to
9 smoke pot. You can smoke all the pot
10 you want, but you won't smoke it
11 here. And that's what we do in the
12 park, and that's why we don't have
13 the influx like they do in the other
14 parks because you can't do that here.
15 That behavior is unacceptable.

16 And I don't care if you
17 recover -- I mean, I hope you do,
18 some part of me does, right. But
19 living here has made me care less and
20 less about people and whether or not
21 they recover, live or die because of
22 your failure. And we're here again
23 at another meeting with the same
24 answers. You try to come up with a
25 new tagline and a new initiative and

1 it's (inaudible). It's the same
2 thing.

3 And all you have to do is
4 disrupt the behavior. They'll get
5 tired, we have to move, we have to
6 go. That's it. That doesn't cost a
7 lot of money. You can't be here.
8 You do it everywhere else in the
9 City, you can't be here. But they
10 can be here. You need to ask
11 yourselves why.

12 Why are you telling me about
13 why (inaudible). Why should I have
14 to care. I don't have that problem.
15 Are you worried about my bills being
16 paid? Are you worried about my
17 lights on? Are you trying to help me
18 pay my daughter's tuition because
19 these are my real-life problems. Are
20 you going to meet me where I'm at?

21 Nobody wants to meet us where
22 we're at. But we're consistently
23 asked to meet people where they're at
24 without care for our livelihood, and
25 I'm over it. Solution-based, do your

1 job. There's no accountability. We
2 don't measure. Our residents measure
3 differently. You're failing. You're
4 failing the people on the street and
5 you're definitely failing the
6 residents, taxpaying residents by the
7 way.

8 I don't understand. And the
9 nerve of you to say that you're
10 having a community-based new group
11 meeting and you didn't call upon the
12 constant expert because I'm not
13 solution-based. I'm not your
14 solution-based. How dare you stifle
15 the voices of the community so you
16 guys can purport your own agenda,
17 because that's what you did.

18 You took my voice away from me
19 because I don't agree and align with
20 your solutions. How dare you come
21 here and say you're concerned when
22 you're not. I've been to every
23 meeting. I've been to everything you
24 (inaudible) do. I've stood in the
25 front line. I've partnered with you.

1 I've communicated with the
2 community, put myself in harm's way.
3 My house was firebombed. Someone
4 broke into my garage, and you have
5 (inaudible) and you're going to not
6 invite me to a meeting to tell you
7 about the concerns of the community
8 that I have (inaudible). How dare
9 you.

10 And some of you on City
11 Council too, not the new ones. I
12 emailed all of you when those things
13 were happening. Not a one of you
14 except for Councilman Kenyatta and
15 Squilla of course answered my call.
16 Shame on you to come here and act
17 like this is new. Shame on you.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
19 (Inaudible).

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.
21 Thank you for your testimony, but
22 we're going to get -- can we move to
23 other people to testify. I'm
24 recommended we go with DA Larry
25 Krasner.

1 (Witnesses approached
2 Witness table.)

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Now, we're
4 going to be respectful. Thank you
5 for your patience, District Attorney
6 Krasner. You kind of heard --

7 (Background interruption.)

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Come on
9 guys. Bear with us. I know this is
10 painful, but we need to have frank
11 conversations and I think if we keep
12 talking and keep working, we can get
13 to solutions.

14 So could you state your name
15 for the record and help us with what
16 you've heard today.

17 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
18 Yes, I can, Councilmember. Good
19 evening. Larry Krasner. I'm the DA
20 in Philadelphia County. I am seated
21 here with Robert Listenbee, who is my
22 First Assistant and who is someone
23 who's dedicated his entire life
24 really to working with juveniles in
25 the criminal justice system,

1 including serving as the head of
2 Juvenile Justice for Barack Obama in
3 his second term.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: If you can
5 bring your mic a little closer.

6 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
7 I'm sorry. In addition to
8 Mr. Listenbee, I'm also here with
9 Curtis Crosland from our Community
10 Engagement Unit. And I'm also here
11 with Jeff Hojnowski. Mr. Hojnowski
12 is an Assistant District Attorney in
13 our Homicide Nonfatal Shooting Unit.
14 At 40 years of age, he has become a
15 very young assistant supervisor in
16 that unit.

17 He is someone who has been a
18 lawyer for a decade and he is also a
19 proud graduate of the school we are
20 in right now. He is a resident of
21 Kensington. He was born in
22 Kensington and he is here, and I hope
23 you'll give the opportunity to do
24 this. I understand time is short.
25 I'll come back. I will come back

1 again. I will say more. I was here
2 last time. I'm here today. I'll
3 come back again.

4 But I hope you will give
5 Mr. Hojnowski an opportunity to do
6 what I have asked him to do, which is
7 talk to you specifically about three
8 cases he prosecuted that involve
9 violence that occurred in this area,
10 the Kensington area. All of them
11 prosecuted successfully because
12 that's the kind of work that he does.
13 I don't mind coming back --

14 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: District
15 Attorney, there's no doubt that
16 you're prosecuting murderers and
17 you're prosecuting those charges.
18 What we'd like to know about is the
19 quality-of-life issues that we're
20 facing. There's no doubt you're
21 going after the murderers. You're
22 going after the (inaudible). Nobody
23 has a doubt about that.

24 What we would like to know is
25 the stuff that affects us, which is

1 our quality of life which happens to
2 be partially retail theft, drug use.
3 As my Chairman -- drug sales for sure
4 and as our Chairman said, you know,
5 people shooting up. He seen it just
6 coming here within a couple of
7 minutes of being here. Our children
8 have to see it every day --

9 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

10 Councilman Harrity, I'm getting some
11 mixed messages here. I hear
12 Councilmember Jones say he wanted to
13 hear about solutions and he didn't
14 just say --

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I --

16 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: --
17 solutions to retail theft.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I --

19 District Attorney, calm down. I'm
20 not going after you. I'm asking you
21 an honest question. I'm being calm.
22 I have not even raised my voice yet.
23 So what I'm asking, all I'm asking is
24 what are you going to change
25 differently to deal with our quality-

1 of-life issues here in Kensington.

2 I'm just asking what you are
3 doing. We've had civil conversations
4 where the two of us have talked and
5 have come to agreements on things.
6 All I want to know is what now do you
7 have some numbers or facts of what's
8 going to happen here in our
9 neighborhood. I'm not trying to beat
10 up anybody. I'm not trying to single
11 anybody out. You seen I asked the
12 Police Commissioner the hard
13 questions too.

14 All we want to know is what
15 are you going to change, what are you
16 going to do differently to help us
17 help our neighbors, and that's it.
18 I'm not trying to rise you. I'm not
19 trying to get you to get up and
20 leave. I wouldn't --

21 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
22 May I speak --

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: So with
24 that, as Chair of this Committee
25 could you respond to what he's

1 talking about and also the sentiment
2 with other people in this room?

3 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
4 am happy to respond to that. But I
5 want to be clear, I will come back.
6 I will answer this question today and
7 in much more detail later, because
8 last time I checked you're running
9 out of time. Part of the reason I
10 was hoping Hojnowski could do his
11 talking so he doesn't have to come
12 back because he's got homicide cases
13 to prosecute and it's part of my job
14 to be here --

15 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Well, you
16 need to let him go and prosecute
17 homicides. The testimony we want to
18 hear about is what's happening in
19 (inaudible). Sorry (inaudible).

20 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
21 Well, I'm sorry too. I do want you
22 to know I consider you a friend and
23 an ally. I supported you in this
24 last election. We have had civil
25 conversation. And if I am even half

1 as assertive as you are, sir, it's
2 only because the problem is retail
3 theft, is drug use, it is drug
4 dealing, but it's also shootings and
5 it's also homicides.

6 We are dealing with an area
7 that comprises almost 50 percent of
8 the locations that have the most
9 shootings in the City of
10 Philadelphia. And it's also all
11 interconnected and you and I know
12 this. The illegal drug trade,
13 poverty, the addiction, all of these
14 things go together and they're part
15 of the reason that it drives the
16 violence.

17 If what you are saying is that
18 Mr. Hojnowski's testimony is not
19 necessary, then let me move on and
20 then maybe there will be another
21 occasion for that. Solutions is what
22 I heard, and those solutions do
23 include a lot of the issues that
24 you're talking about.

25 So here is a solution with

1 reference to retail theft, it's
2 something we have discussed: There
3 has been a very long history of
4 retail theft prosecutions being about
5 individuals. And the truth about
6 retail theft prosecutions of
7 individuals is that about 70, 80, 90
8 percent of the time they fail.

9 Why do they fail? Because the
10 witnesses don't come and because the
11 defendants don't come a lot. Do we
12 prosecute it? Yes, we do. We
13 prosecute with summary charges that
14 are subject to 90 days in jail or
15 other periods of time in jail. And
16 when we have prolific offenders or
17 people who keep offending, which is a
18 very small portion of the ones who
19 are arrested, we are perfectly
20 willing to go after felonies, to go
21 after misdemeanors, to put them in
22 state prison. We have done that. We
23 are willing to do that.

24 But there is a new idea
25 because the ideas in this area have

1 failed for 60 years. There is a new
2 idea. It's called the Retail Theft
3 Task Force. And the idea is that
4 instead of going for all the minnows,
5 you also in addition to that you go
6 for the shark.

7 And what is the shark? The
8 shark is the warehouse that is
9 collecting the stolen goods, the
10 warehouse that is using the Internet
11 to sell millions of dollars' worth of
12 stolen goods, the warehouse where
13 somebody has given a list to people
14 who are addicted telling them what to
15 steal and to bring back, and that is
16 real. It is real.

17 We have met with a lot of --

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: You get
19 the small guy and we can get him to
20 give us the big guy. But bottom
21 line, I get it and I get what that's
22 trying to accomplish. I get that.
23 I'm respectful of it. What I'm
24 trying to say to you is those little
25 guys that you consider little guys is

1 the reason we have no stores. I
2 mean, where would you like my
3 neighbors to buy their groceries or
4 their prescriptions.

5 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

6 Well, what I would like is something
7 that works. And what I know has not
8 worked from nearly 40 years in
9 criminal justice is ignoring the big
10 guy. Yes, we do need to pursue the
11 little guys in ways that are
12 appropriate. Yes, we do that.

13 When there is an arrest on a
14 summary, we pursue it. And those
15 people are subject to up to 90 days
16 in jail. When there is an arrest for
17 a prolific offender, we pursue it.
18 We put them in state prison. We're
19 willing to do that. If you think
20 that solves the problem, then we can
21 look backward in 60 years because the
22 fact is it hasn't --

23 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: How many
24 people actually receive 90 days?

25 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I

1 can try to get you that --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:

3 (Inaudible).

4 DISTRICT ATTORNEY: -- number,
5 but what I would like to know is are
6 you willing to fund the work --

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Ladies and
8 gentlemen, he has the mic. We will
9 let him speak and we will ask
10 questions.

11 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So
12 this was a part of my budget request.
13 And I want to tell you I'm very
14 grateful for what Council did in
15 terms of supporting our new
16 Carjacking Unit. As I'm sure you
17 know, carjacking numbers are getting
18 better. And in supporting our
19 getting gun violence prosecutors like
20 Jeff Hojnowski out in the community,
21 which is where he is now, I'm very
22 grateful for that support. But there
23 are other areas that don't cost that
24 much that can make a really big
25 difference.

1 One of those areas is in
2 addition to going after the little
3 guys, trying to flip the little guys,
4 trying to get the info off the little
5 guys is to go after the people who
6 are really profiting from it, because
7 it's no fun to steal anymore if you
8 can't get any money off the stuff
9 that you stole. And if you are
10 addicted to drugs and many of them
11 are, you have to be focused on
12 getting that money.

13 So if you can take away the
14 fences, in other words the people who
15 receive the stolen goods and then
16 resell them for millions of dollars,
17 you have taken a big dent out of the
18 motivation and the energy that will
19 go into that kind of activity by
20 people who are addicted to drugs. So
21 that is a new idea. It's something
22 that has never been done in
23 Kensington. It's something we want
24 to do.

25 And all that I would ask from

1 you is to consider at the midyear
2 when it comes to these funds, please
3 consider a reasonable amount. Please
4 consider supporting a Retail Theft
5 Task Force that will not just focus
6 on the minnows, but will also go for
7 the sharks.

8 When we talk about drugs, it's
9 a similar situation. This office
10 vigorously pursues and prosecutes
11 people for drug dealing. Okay. We
12 do what we can with that. But the
13 true history of how there has been
14 enforcement around drugs in
15 Kensington has been it's mostly grab-
16 and-go. It's mostly getting young
17 people on the corner who after their
18 arrest that are replaced within 24
19 hours by another young person on the
20 corner. And the people making the
21 real money, the family that is on
22 that block for two decades and rents
23 out pieces of that block to other
24 drug dealers, those people for the
25 most part get away with it except

1 when you engage in serious
2 enforcement against that family.

3 I will give you an example of
4 a success that we've had, a success I
5 would like to do more and more in
6 Kensington and elsewhere, which was
7 taking down drug activity at Kip and
8 Cambria. This was a couple of years
9 ago. It was a bust where we used the
10 wiretaps, so we're listening to
11 people who are professional drug
12 dealers doing the drug dealing. This
13 is not just watching three kids on
14 the corner sell three packages on the
15 corner. This is getting the real
16 owners of the operation.

17 The arrest involved over 60
18 people. They were all professional
19 drug dealers. To the best of my
20 recollection, every single one of
21 them was convicted and the drug
22 activity in the area, which was
23 multi-generational ownership by a
24 particular family, took down two
25 generations, and it brought a lot of

1 improvement to that area for a very,
2 very long time.

3 All I need for that is
4 wiretaps. Okay. An issue I've been
5 raising now for four years within
6 City government, not necessarily with
7 all of you, but with some of you.
8 What I need is wiretaps. That's a
9 little bit more money for people who
10 listen to the wires all day. A
11 little money to make sure some of
12 them speak the appropriate language
13 that might be involved. It's a
14 little bit more equipment.

15 But this is not an incredibly
16 expensive thing, and it is not only
17 good for dealing with big time drug
18 dealers, it's really good for dealing
19 with people who are shooting people.
20 That is something that we ought to be
21 able to do and is not a terribly
22 expensive thing, and that is
23 different. That's not how it's been
24 done.

25 Now, in terms of big time drug

1 dealers, I can tell you we were
2 hearing earlier about a sweep where
3 \$77,000 were obtained and I think I
4 heard about \$1 million worth of drugs
5 in street value. To give you an
6 example of the power of using
7 wiretaps, my office for two and a
8 half years pursued some drug dealing
9 that went all the way back to the
10 Sinoloa Cartel in Mexico.

11 We eventually were able to
12 involve DEA, some of the foreign
13 DEAs. There were moments in that
14 investigation when a tractor trailer
15 was at the side of the road with
16 \$1 million cash wrapped in cellophane
17 being pulled out of the cab and
18 hundreds of kilos of incredibly
19 dangerous drugs were being taken at a
20 time. That case was so huge that
21 even though it was our investigation,
22 we eventually allowed the Feds to
23 prosecute it because it was that big.

24 We can do big things. And we
25 can do big things in terms of

1 enforcement and we can do those big
2 things for not a whole lot of money.
3 All we have to do is admit that not
4 everything has worked in that last 60
5 years in Kensington. If we're
6 willing to do things a little bit
7 differently, Retail Theft Task Force,
8 if we're willing to use wiretaps in
9 ways to try to get at the drug
10 dealing but also get at the shootings
11 that are going on, we can make a big
12 difference.

13 In terms of some other
14 quality-of-life issues, we have an
15 Elder Justice Unit that didn't use to
16 exist, which is there to protect
17 seniors from all the different kinds
18 of frauds that are brought down on
19 them. We can use a little help with
20 that. We have tremendous lawyers
21 working on house theft and deed
22 theft, which is rampant in this City.
23 It's an absolute plague in this City.

24 The only limitation I have is
25 if I have only a couple of detectives

1 and I have one prosecutor, how many
2 houses can I do. This is a
3 community, this is a city famous for
4 homeownership, and yet we're allowing
5 people to steal houses and we're
6 allowing them to do it in sweeping
7 ways. We have had successful
8 prosecutions, but we need a little
9 bit of support there.

10 And then of course this brings
11 us to some other issue. Another
12 thing we can do along the lines of
13 the issues that affect this community
14 is we can work with SEPTA. Just this
15 morning I was sitting in a room with
16 Chief Lawson and with Leslie Richards
17 who is the Chief of SEPTA, among
18 other people from her team.

19 SEPTA is essential to this
20 community and it needs our support.
21 We have already discussed ways that
22 we can support SEPTA. And frankly,
23 SEPTA does tremendous service to this
24 community in many ways. One of those
25 ways being it has a state-of-the-art

1 camera system. Do not commit crimes
2 on SEPTA when those cameras are
3 pointed at you because I can count
4 freckles.

5 And if you're going to run
6 away from a crime -- I can give you
7 examples -- do not run away from a
8 crime on SEPTA because I'm going to
9 get to see when you're fist-bumping
10 about the crime that you committed
11 and you're smirking about the crime
12 that you committed, and I'm going to
13 get to see where you set your hand
14 onto a stainless steel bench so our
15 forensics experts can go pull your
16 handprint. And those are real
17 examples. I'm not making that stuff
18 up. Another thing that we can do is
19 to see what we can do to work with
20 SEPTA.

21 At the root of an awful lot of
22 these issues, I will say in addition
23 to the whole prevention side and I
24 know you're short on time, I will
25 come back. I'm happy to --

1 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: You can
2 (inaudible).

3 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
4 Okay. I was under the impression
5 this was ending soon. But if not,
6 I'll stay here until midnight and we
7 can do that. I do want to say this
8 though, I think it's really important
9 to understand that what happens in
10 terms of gun violence affects
11 Kensington profoundly.

12 Of the 57 blocks that the
13 Philadelphia Inquirer described, we
14 mapped them, 28 of them were right in
15 and around Kensington. Half of them
16 were right in and around Kensington.
17 So when we talk about gun violence,
18 we are talking about Kensington. And
19 when we talk about Kensington, we are
20 talking about gun violence.

21 And despite the fact that the
22 numbers are going in a better
23 direction in the middle of this
24 terrible crisis that is affecting so
25 many people so adversely, there is an

1 enormous thing that can be done that
2 frankly doesn't cost all that much
3 money that would make a huge
4 difference. And that is this, we
5 need forensics.

6 We have an excellent Chief of
7 Forensics who happens to be in the
8 room, Dr. Garvey. He's working with
9 too little. He is working with too
10 little. It is affecting our ability
11 to put consequences on crimes. Let
12 me give you just one example. In
13 order for us to prove cases that
14 involve shooting and involve gun
15 possession, we need the Philadelphia
16 Police Department's firearms
17 examiners to test those guns, to
18 examine those guns, to measure those
19 guns.

20 Not that long ago there were
21 22. Right now it's about 5. Okay.
22 So what does that mean? What that
23 means is that when I go to court with
24 a case where I need firearms
25 examiner's report and we are 9 months

1 after the arrest or 12 months after
2 the arrest, so when really good
3 firearms examiners are working as
4 hard as they can, but 5 people can't
5 do the work of 22, so we're going to
6 lose those cases. And we're going to
7 lose those cases because we cannot
8 produce the evidence that we need or
9 a judge is going to throw it out
10 because we didn't have it.

11 Now, I understand that's not
12 the sexiest political thing to talk
13 about, that we need more firearms
14 examiners or we need more people to
15 take fingerprints. It might not be
16 the sexiest thing to talk about how
17 we got a 47,000 square foot lab and
18 we need 150,000 square feet. But
19 what that actually means is we solve
20 a lot more crimes. We solve a lot
21 more crimes in Kensington. We have
22 cases that are a lot stronger.

23 When people get caught, and
24 more of them will get caught, more of
25 them are going to plead guilty

1 because they know they got no shot at
2 trial, the trials will come more
3 quickly, the convictions will come
4 more quickly, and we will also have
5 more certainty that we got the right
6 people, because the guilty people got
7 caught and the innocent people
8 didn't. That is absolutely worth
9 every penny, and it's not that many
10 pennies.

11 We just heard recently an
12 expenditure of \$250 million of police
13 overtime. I'm just going to assume
14 that was also necessary. Well, the
15 price tag for a complete state-of-
16 the-art forensics lab is at most 150
17 million. And if you use an old
18 building and retrofit it, it's more
19 like 100 million. We are talking
20 about pennies. Yes, sir.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Chair
22 recognizes Member Johnson.

23 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: I just
24 want to get an understanding for
25 clarity, probably for the right of

1 the public as well, because you talk
2 about investment in forensics and
3 obviously that's things members of
4 Council are working on. That's the
5 whale, right, as Mr. Chairman talked
6 about. We're talking about the
7 minnows.

8 So I'm trying to get an
9 understanding that until we actually
10 get this superistic fantastic
11 forensic site, right, what are we
12 doing in the meantime with your team
13 and the Philadelphia Police
14 Department and the detectives of the
15 Philadelphia Police Department
16 rolling up their sleeves every single
17 day, right, until we get this big
18 forensics investment, to address the
19 issue around going after individuals
20 who are murdering and shooting people
21 here in the City of Philadelphia
22 because we're not going to have this
23 forensics facility any time soon, but
24 people are being murdered and shot
25 day-in and day-out? So what are we

1 doing collectively, right, your team
2 and their team?

3 We're not even talking about
4 their overtime. Some of their
5 overtime is probably warranted just
6 based upon the levels of gun violence
7 that we've actually seen, but we're
8 not pointing fingers. We're talking
9 about getting inside the room and you
10 said solutions, right --

11 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
12 Right.

13 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: -- not
14 what they're getting versus what
15 you're getting, right. But what are
16 we doing collectively allowing this
17 issue to make sure the detectives are
18 doing their side, the police are
19 doing their side and the DA is saying
20 this is good evidence, so when your
21 ADAs do go up and fight a case,
22 because it's kind of embarrassing to
23 say that they are losing based upon
24 not having investment.

25 If it was me, I'm never going

1 to say my team is losing because
2 we're not having resources. We're
3 going to figure out what we have and
4 actually go and get more. So I'm
5 trying to understand --

6 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

7 I'm happy to answer your question,
8 Councilmember. And I have truly
9 enjoyed working with you in the past,
10 especially along with Councilmember
11 Jones with the 100 Shooter Report and
12 with public safety efforts on the
13 part of City Council.

14 So the real answer is that we
15 work hard and closely all the time.
16 And that's how the DA's Office gets
17 close to a 90 percent conviction rate
18 for shootings and for homicides.
19 That's reality. I understand that
20 you may not have time for
21 Mr. Hojnowski. He would have
22 described to you three convictions
23 that he's obtained in those serious
24 cases in this area. Unlike other
25 cases where the police do their work

1 and then we do ours, when it comes to
2 homicides, the coordination is much
3 closer.

4 And when it comes to some, not
5 all, of the shooting cases, the ones
6 that are, for example, done by our
7 Gun Violence Task Force, which does
8 use more forensics, which does use
9 more phone technology, when it comes
10 to that kind of work, that's the kind
11 of work that is actually disrupting
12 shooting groups for good. 0-to-the-4
13 is getting close to the 0-to-the-no-
14 more. And that is specifically the
15 result of having a toolkit, a toolkit
16 we fought for, to be able to crack
17 phones, to be able to download phones
18 and be able to get at these
19 forensics. So we have never stopped
20 working. The police department has
21 never stopped working.

22 I'll just give you an example
23 of this kind of coordination. So it
24 used to be our homicide prosecutors
25 were separate from our shooting

1 prosecutors. I made a decision to
2 put them together for a lot of
3 reasons. One of the reasons being
4 the sharing of information because
5 people who shoot are sometimes the
6 same people who shoot and kill,
7 right. We did that and we saw some
8 real positive results in terms of our
9 results.

10 Well, the police department
11 not too long after that, maybe a year
12 after that came up for the first time
13 with a Shooting Investigation Group,
14 which was a group that was going to
15 work very specifically on shootings.
16 We weren't going to have detectives
17 all over the City doing what they can
18 do on shootings. We're going to
19 focus it in one place and they also
20 of course have invested in more
21 detectives for Homicide, which is
22 wonderful. That's exactly what they
23 should do.

24 And just so we're clear, I
25 didn't say that they shouldn't have

1 their overtime. God knows these
2 homicide detectives --

3 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: You
4 said --

5 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
6 Yeah, I got you. Well, no --

7 COUNCILMAN JOHNSON: It's
8 cool. (Inaudible). We're trying to
9 talk about solutions --

10 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
11 Okay. Well, that is definitely not
12 how I view it. All right. But
13 coming back to it --

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Guys, let
15 me pause you for a minute.
16 Conversation is good. We have to
17 have difficult conversations, but we
18 have to move towards solutions.
19 That's the whole purpose. So what
20 I'd like to do is let's pause on the
21 whale. Let's talk about the minnows
22 for a minute because what the people
23 in this audience want to talk about
24 is walking down the avenue and not
25 being able to go to a store to get

1 bread, butter and cheese because the
2 store is closed.

3 They want to talk about the
4 fact that they have to navigate in
5 between people shooting up, people
6 selling dope and how that depresses
7 their lives. So I got what you're
8 saying about the crime lab. Me and
9 my brother Kenyatta, we're working on
10 that money both from the state and
11 local.

12 I heard the wiretap issue. I
13 think it is a cost-effective way to
14 come after some of the higher-level
15 big drug dealers. But tell me how a
16 year from now we're going to be able
17 to walk down that avenue and not be
18 embarrassed that we are here.

19 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So
20 I'm going to give you the most honest
21 answer I can like I always do, and I
22 know not all of you are going to love
23 it but I'm going to do it. The
24 reason we don't have solutions right
25 now and we don't have solutions for

1 60 years is because for 60 years
2 we've been acting like it's this
3 one-year problem. It's not a
4 one-year problem.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay.

6 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

7 And I say that respectfully to you
8 because I would love to have --

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're just
10 having conversation. I'm good with
11 it.

12 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

13 The realities, most of the people
14 sitting up on the stage and I say
15 this respectfully, are younger than
16 this problem is. This problem goes
17 back to the 1960s and its roots. The
18 problem has been the only kind of
19 investment that is made around here
20 is locking people up. It's not
21 actually investing in opportunity.
22 It's not investing in economics.
23 It's not allowing people who do not
24 vote at high rates to have power.

25 The reality is that this

1 community has gotten where it has
2 gotten in large part because it
3 didn't have money and it didn't have
4 power and people in elected office,
5 not these people, not me, but people
6 in elected office didn't care.
7 That's the truth.

8 So the reason we don't have
9 that forensics lab now is because
10 when we were talking about this four
11 years ago, we kept hearing, well, how
12 is that going to happen right away.
13 Nothing's going to happen right away.
14 But we're going to have decades and
15 decades of nothing getting done here
16 unless, A, we move towards new
17 solutions and we, B, are willing to
18 do things that might take a couple of
19 years.

20 Well, let me give you an
21 example of what taking a couple of
22 years looks like. There is another
23 city where they have 5,000 heroin
24 users living on the street. 5,000
25 heroin users living on the street 20

1 years ago. They now have 1,000.
2 They have an 80 percent reduction.
3 And, yes, I know everybody would
4 prefer that there was nobody on the
5 street. But I think almost everybody
6 in this room will tell you right now
7 if we could reduce the on-street
8 drug-addicted population by 80
9 percent, that would definitely be a
10 step in the right direction. It
11 would definitely be improvement.

12 Well, that plan didn't come
13 from government. That plan came from
14 a doctor. It did not come from
15 judges. It did not come from
16 lawyers. It did not come from
17 police, although police were involved
18 in carrying it out. That came from a
19 doctor. There are things that have
20 worked, and simply repeating in
21 Kensington what has not worked in six
22 years isn't all of a sudden going to
23 work now. It might be good politics,
24 but it certainly is not good policy
25 and is not going to improve the lives

1 of people in Kensington.

2 So I'm happy to give you
3 details on that. That is not just
4 something I read about. That is
5 something I saw. I went to that
6 city. I was in that city. I went
7 and saw heroin users in that city
8 hiding in the bushes shooting up.
9 And you know what I saw there? They
10 were older. They were older.

11 And the reason they were older
12 is because you don't have young
13 heroin users in that city. And a lot
14 of the older heroin users you have
15 were actually people who's been off
16 the stuff for seven or eight years
17 and they were relapsing. Well, I
18 could say that about Kensington and I
19 wish I could say that about
20 Philadelphia.

21 But when I look around and I
22 see people addicted to drugs, what I
23 see is an approach to this that
24 unfortunately has not served the
25 people who live in Kensington well,

1 has not served the City well. And we
2 got to be willing to try something
3 else.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: So I'm
5 going to yield the mic to my
6 colleagues because they are chomping
7 at the bit. And this is not
8 adversarial. This is to try to get
9 to what we should expect. And so,
10 we're going to work on your whales.
11 We are working on your whales. We're
12 looking under couches and pillows to
13 make sure you have that crime lab
14 because we agree that the closure
15 rate needs to be addressed on a
16 number of crimes.

17 But what we're here to talk
18 about today is something more minnow,
19 something more minute and we may not
20 agree that that is the direct
21 approach that has long-term success,
22 but what we're seeing right now is at
23 a tipping point where it is
24 unbearable. I heard a lady talk
25 about she can't take it anymore and

1 that this problem isn't paying her
2 bills, and the alternative kind of is
3 we just concede the neighborhood and
4 move out, but none of us are here to
5 do that. We're here, we're going to
6 keep coming back.

7 So I'm going to turn the mic
8 over, and we'll ask some specific
9 questions, quantitative questions
10 about what is going on in the 20
11 blocks of Kensington.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: 27
13 blocks, right.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: 27.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: The
16 initiative of 27 blocks. DA Krasner,
17 can you tell me you guys have -- your
18 27 block initiative has been going on
19 for how long now?

20 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: If
21 I may --

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: 57, but
23 27 of them are here in the Kensington
24 area, if I understand correctly.

25 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: So

1 that you understand, there is no 57
2 blocks initiative. There is none and
3 it is not my office. What has been
4 going on is that the Philadelphia
5 Inquirer put out an article. A lot
6 of people were fascinated by it. The
7 fact there are certain locations
8 where even after you lock people up,
9 you're having more shootings two
10 years later and then another shooting
11 a year later. These are places where
12 there is chronic violence. And those
13 places when you study them have
14 certain things going on, poverty,
15 having been redlined before,
16 et cetera, asthma, poor performance
17 in schools, unemployment, that kind
18 of stuff. So --

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Within
20 the 27 blocks here in the Kensington
21 area that you guys are working on, we
22 have lost many of our anchor stores,
23 right. You've heard it multiple
24 times, right. I'd like to know what
25 your policy is on retail theft. And

1 I'd like to know -- you mentioned in
2 our budget hearings that we have
3 repeat offenders.

4 We continue to hear about the
5 18 different diversion programs that
6 you run out of the District
7 Attorney's Office, which I think is a
8 bit excessive, right. There's 18 of
9 them. I don't understand why because
10 a lot of them are overlapping
11 services as far as from what I can
12 see, right.

13 What's your policy on retail
14 theft? How do we change what that
15 policy is that is obviously not
16 working because every day we lose a
17 different store? If you drive up
18 Kensington Avenue, you know and you
19 can see that these are owner-
20 operators. These are people that
21 have invested all of their life
22 savings in this particular corridor
23 and can't get their businesses to
24 thrive because of what is happening
25 here.

1 So can you tell me what your
2 policy is? How many arrests are in
3 this target area that you mentioned,
4 how many arrests have been made here?
5 How do you work with the police
6 department to be able to address not
7 just the repeat retail theft person,
8 but the person who shows up and
9 thinks that in this particular
10 neighborhood this is acceptable?

11 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

12 All right. Let me just say 57 blocks
13 is a totally different concept. It
14 is not a program. It is a good idea
15 the community has and we tried to
16 support them in that and perhaps
17 they'll get some legs at some point.
18 It actually is not too different than
19 some of the ideas that are in the
20 Kensington Plan.

21 But let's put that to the
22 side. Your question was what's our
23 policy on retail theft. Policy on
24 retail theft is to prosecute every
25 retail theft that is not otherwise in

1 the diversion program. Police have a
2 diversion program which is PAD. We
3 have some of them. But in general if
4 police bring us a case, everyone is
5 charged.

6 Most of them will be charged
7 with a summary offense, an offense
8 that is punishable by a sentence of
9 up to 90 days. When we know that
10 people are involved in other serious
11 criminal activity, we will charge
12 them at a higher level. If they're
13 stealing things of high value, we
14 will charge them at a higher level.
15 And if the police inform us that
16 someone is a prolific offender or if
17 we can see that on the criminal
18 record, we will charge them at a
19 higher level.

20 I would like to tell you that
21 solved all the problems, but it never
22 has. It never will and it doesn't
23 now. Here's the reality: We have
24 had one guy who had something like
25 50, I think maybe 56 retail theft

1 cases. We prosecuted him as a
2 felony. We put him in state prison.
3 He completed his state punishment. I
4 think he did all two years on that
5 thing. Then he then came out and did
6 it again. Okay. That's the reality.
7 We are selective about using higher
8 levels to prosecute, but we use it
9 where appropriate. And it's not
10 going to be a solution for someone
11 who has --

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

13 (Inaudible).

14 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
15 just told you we put him in jail for
16 two years and then he came out and
17 did it again. So in terms of what
18 you asked me, we prosecute all of
19 them. But we use a level of judgment
20 about whether it's a first offender
21 or it's somebody who's stealing
22 something of high value or someone
23 who's doing a lot of theft.

24 Now, as I said I believe
25 there's another part of this that's

1 been ignored for my entire career
2 since 1987, which is going after the
3 fences who are making all the money
4 and making more money than ever
5 because the Internet is just a
6 wonderful way to clean stolen goods.
7 And I would like to be able to do
8 that as well. I think if we do two
9 of them at the same time we can make
10 some real progress.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Can I
12 have somebody from the Police
13 Department tell me how many cases of
14 retail theft -- how many people have
15 we arrested for retail theft in the
16 last 12 months?

17 (Witness approached
18 Witness table.)

19 COUNCILMAN JONES: State your
20 name please for the record.

21 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Danielle
22 Outlaw, Police Commissioner. Madam
23 Councilwoman, we'll have to get back
24 to you with that number. I have a
25 number for narcotics arrests and

1 total arrests, but I don't have the
2 specific retail number for the last
3 year.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: DA
5 Krasner, do you know how many arrests
6 have been made or how many people
7 have you charged?

8 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: We
9 charge everybody that the police has
10 sent us where there's probable cause.
11 Probably 99 percent of those cases
12 have probable cause. We charge them
13 summary, which is a crime, and can
14 put you in jail for up to 90 days or
15 a misdemeanor or a felony, which is
16 the highest level of crimes. It
17 depends on the situation.

18 There's a very small number --
19 the data is clear there's a very
20 small number who are the prolific
21 offenders and they deserve to be
22 charged at high level. There are --

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: The
24 problem is not the prolific offender.
25 It's just the fact that everybody

1 thinks it's okay to walk into those
2 businesses and load a bag up and walk
3 out. That is why we're seeing all of
4 these businesses shut down. It's not
5 just one specific group of people.
6 And I can't figure out -- I can't get
7 an answer from anybody because you
8 ask one group of folks how many
9 arrests are happening here in this
10 particular footprint, I can't get an
11 answer. How many have been charged,
12 how many people have actually gone to
13 jail. And I can't ever get that.

14 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
15 think I am answering you
16 respectfully, Councilmember. I have
17 made clear many times -- and frankly
18 if someone had asked me for this
19 data, I would have brought it -- but
20 I made it clear many times that our
21 rate of charging the cases with few
22 exceptions that are brought to us by
23 the police department is extremely
24 high. It is much higher than other
25 jurisdictions.

1 We actually charge gun
2 possession cases at a higher rate
3 than my predecessor. It's about 98,
4 99 percent. And when we don't charge
5 it, it's only because --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's
7 not a lot.

8 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
9 No, it's not a lot, and that's
10 actually true. When we don't do it,
11 it's only because it's a flaw in the
12 case. It's not probable cause or
13 there's a clearly illegal search or
14 something that's been nullified. We
15 charge all of the retail theft cases
16 that are sent to us where there's
17 probable cause, there's not an
18 obvious basis for suppression, it's
19 about 99 percent. And --

20 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: There
21 seems to be a disconnect between the
22 Police Department and the District
23 Attorney's Office as it relates to
24 the process or the policy or the
25 procedures that are put in place to

1 get someone from being arrested in
2 the community and actually being
3 charged.

4 Can you tell me what you all
5 are doing together to be able to
6 rectify that issue, right? If you
7 are seeing that cases are being
8 brought in front of your ADAs and
9 there is certain type of information
10 that is not brought to you
11 appropriately or that is missing,
12 what are you all doing to work
13 together to actually fix that so that
14 it doesn't continuously happen?
15 What's happening? Are you guys
16 talking? Are you meeting?

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: As you
18 answer that question, specifically
19 the number of arrests, the number of
20 charges, the number of convictions.
21 Not a 99 percent of what.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: What are
23 the numbers?

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: What are
25 the numbers?

1 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
2 would be happy to answer that. We
3 have arguably the best data lab in
4 the United States for a DA's Office,
5 but I can't answer it in my head. I
6 have to be informed of that in
7 advance. I'll be happy to get you
8 those numbers later if you would like
9 to have them.

10 But I will give you in general
11 what I think they're going to show.
12 What I think they're going to show is
13 that we charge essentially every
14 retail theft case either as a
15 summary, a misdemeanor or a felony.
16 It is not going to show a situation
17 where there's a high percent of cases
18 we are rejecting.

19 The vast majority of the
20 retail theft cases that come to us at
21 probably a 98 or 99 percent level are
22 adequate. They are properly
23 investigated. The police have
24 conducted themselves in the right
25 way. Okay. As for the conviction

1 rate, the truth about this since 1987
2 is that most of these cases involve a
3 loss prevention officer, someone who
4 is an eyewitness and most of the time
5 they don't show up or that you have
6 owners who need to come in to say
7 it's owned by the store or the loss
8 prevention officer will say was owned
9 by the store and it was taken by Joe
10 and I caught Joe at the door. A lot
11 of times these businesses, big or
12 small, don't produce the witness.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: So how
14 many?

15 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: I
16 don't -- as I said --

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: So how --

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: For the
19 record, I'd like to make sure that we
20 recognize we asked this question in
21 budget hearing. We asked this
22 question the last time you were here
23 and we are still at the same place.
24 And so, when, when do we get the
25 answers that we need? This community

1 is suffering.

2 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: If
3 I had a communication 24 hours ago,
4 you'd have it right now. That's all
5 you need to do. I'd be happy to do
6 that, and I say that respectfully to
7 you. If you tell me I want these
8 numbers, I can run Kensington's
9 specific numbers as well. I have
10 done this for many Councilmembers. A
11 lot of you know that I've put packets
12 in your hand --

13 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: We asked
14 for them during budget hearings.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
16 We're not going to get that answer
17 this moment. But can we ask both the
18 Police Commissioner and the District
19 Attorney to provide to the Chair so
20 we can provide to our respective
21 members those specific numbers.
22 Because we can disagree about
23 philosophy of what we should do, but
24 numbers don't tell a fib. And we
25 just need to quantify what direction

1 our policy is and what we should be
2 considering, like let's quantify it.

3 And I'm not -- listen, I
4 understand about whales and minnows
5 and I think going after the big
6 warehouse full of Tide is where we
7 want to go. I want them definitely.
8 I want to cut the head of the snake
9 off. However, I met a guy outside
10 who really is contemplating closing
11 his store because he just routinely
12 gets robbed and not with a gun, just
13 by the mere fact that somebody comes
14 and shops for the people down at the
15 tavern. We have to address it.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: And I
17 also make a note that there's all
18 this conversation about certain
19 things not getting into certain
20 people's hands appropriately, right,
21 or they're incomplete or there's
22 something missing. We talked about
23 recruitment and retention, right,
24 earlier today.

25 And so, what I also want us to

1 think about is do we need to have
2 your office come to the training
3 center where you all are talking to
4 these new recruits about this is the
5 information that we need in order to
6 get us from Point A to Z when an
7 individual is brought in front of you
8 because they have obstructed the law.
9 Is that a possibility? Does that
10 happen now?

11 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

12 Let me just say this: Either I or my
13 designee, I think about 85 percent of
14 the time I have spoken to every new
15 class of new police cadets at the
16 invitation usually regarding
17 civically about how to stay out of
18 trouble, how to do the right thing,
19 how not to jeopardize their career.
20 I've done that myself and I think
21 that's really important.

22 We would be happy to do any
23 additional trainings that the
24 Philadelphia Police Department would
25 like us to do. And I can think of an

1 area where we might be of help. This
2 is no criticism at all to the police
3 department, but we want to help. And
4 that area has to do with some of the
5 law that has changed on searching
6 cars and some of the law that has
7 changed on searching a person for a
8 gun. Maybe that's somewhere where we
9 can be of assistance.

10 We do work weekly with the --
11 or it depends on how often we do it,
12 but we work all the time on the
13 shooting reviews, working through
14 with PPD about which cases are
15 perfect, which cases are less
16 perfect, where it is that we can do
17 something that can be done better.
18 We do that kind of stuff all the
19 time. But in terms of speaking at
20 roll calls or speaking to new cadets
21 who are in the academy, we would be
22 happy to do any additional trainings
23 that the Commissioner thought was
24 appropriate.

25 I don't think it's my job to

1 tell her what to do and I know she
2 doesn't think it's her job to tell me
3 what to do. But we are very open to
4 any requests the Commissioner may
5 have to do additional trainings at
6 their suggestion.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: My last
8 question is we have a mini station
9 that is just dedicated to Kensington.
10 What are the possibilities of you
11 assigning an ADA or ADAs to that
12 particular station to assist officers
13 when they're making arrests, when
14 they have questions, when they are on
15 the ground and are trying to figure
16 out whether they're doing things
17 appropriately? Is that something
18 that we could look at or that we will
19 consider?

20 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
21 Yes, we would consider it. There was
22 a time before the pandemic when we
23 did something a little different. It
24 was copied from a model in Chicago
25 that was proven effective, and that

1 was that we had some of our Homicide
2 ADAs and some of our Shooting ADAs
3 who were assigned to certain areas
4 where there were high levels of gun
5 violence to assist detectives.

6 Philly does things a little
7 differently than Chicago. Detectives
8 at that time were the ones we wanted
9 to work with because we thought we
10 might be of use to them in terms of
11 drafting an affidavit of probable
12 cause for an arrest warrant or search
13 warrant, things like that.

14 If we are funded for it, we
15 are entirely open to that. We are
16 not currently funded for that, and we
17 would never break in. We need an
18 invitation from our friends at the
19 Police Department, but we would
20 certainly be open to that. And we
21 have in the past had people who were
22 assigned either to the DVIC, which of
23 course is in some ways the
24 intelligence center for the Police
25 Department. We had a permanent seat

1 there for a while or we have had
2 people who are working directly with
3 the detectives on the more serious
4 cases.

5 Now, obviously a mini station
6 will have a variety of cases.

7 They're not all going to be the most
8 serious cases, but we're open to it,
9 yeah. I think the more coordination,
10 the more closeness, the more
11 proximity, the more working together,
12 the better. And I think our Homicide
13 Unit which works closely with PPD on
14 investigations is an example of how
15 that's a good idea.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Who
17 needs to say yes? Can we agree that
18 you two will work -- the Police
19 Department and the DA's Office will
20 work much more closer together and
21 when it comes to arresting, charging
22 and getting us to the end of the line
23 from A to Z? And can we also figure
24 out how we agree to have a District
25 Attorney be at the Kensington mini

1 station to be able to provide support
2 to officers when they're conducting
3 these investigations and arrests?

4 Who needs to make that decision?

5 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER: My
6 answer is if you fund it and if the
7 PPD invites me because I'm not going
8 to invade their lane, then we're
9 happy to do that. I think the truth
10 is people do not understand how
11 closely the PPD and the DA's Office
12 work all the time when it comes to
13 these major drug investigations, when
14 it comes to homicide investigations.

15 Even at the charging phase
16 what happens is if we get a case and
17 we think something more is needed, we
18 don't just say no. We say to them,
19 please go get me this, please take
20 this person caught in the stolen car,
21 please take their photograph back to
22 the person who got carjacked two days
23 ago and let's see if they will
24 identify this person as being the
25 carjacker, right. That kind of

1 coordination goes on all the time.

2 It's not public, but it goes on all
3 the time.

4 And in general, I have to tell
5 you I think that a lot of the
6 detectives do an amazing job. I
7 think the PPD is very responsive when
8 we tell them that there's something
9 that we don't have. So that is
10 happening all the time. But as I
11 said, I'm a big believer that the
12 more we work together the better, and
13 I'm open to any suggestions. So long
14 as we're funded to do it, we'll do
15 it.

16 COMMISSIONER OUTLAW: Yes,
17 ma'am, and we would like to have the
18 DAS again.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
20 you very much.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
22 so much.

23 Chair recognizes Member
24 Harrity.

25 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Sorry, I

1 was -- and I actually don't even have
2 a question. I just have a request.
3 When you're putting those numbers
4 together for us, if you could please
5 give us also numbers on how many
6 cases are dismissed because of either
7 an ADA not prepared, an officer not
8 showing up, witnesses not showing up,
9 whatever it is. It's not to point
10 out who's -- it's just to figure out
11 where the disconnect is. So I'd like
12 to see some numbers on how many cases
13 are actually dismissed or actually
14 followed through all the way through
15 the process.

16 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

17 Yes, sir. Councilmember, are you
18 talking about all kinds of cases or
19 are we talking about a specific
20 category of cases?

21 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Yeah, I
22 would like to see everything.

23 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

24 Okay. All right. All right. We're
25 happy to do that.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Are
2 you done, Member Harrity?

3 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I am.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Chair
5 recognizes Member Gauthier.

6 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Thank
7 you, Mr. Chair.

8 I know that we are having a
9 discussion about the appropriate ways
10 to enforce as it relates to
11 shoplifting so that we can stop the
12 harm that's happening to small
13 businesses, and that's obviously a
14 very important discussion that needs
15 to be resolved.

16 But I also wanted to bring in
17 the Commerce Department to talk about
18 other ways that we may be able to
19 support these businesses. During
20 COVID, for example, which was a
21 crisis and I consider this to be a
22 crisis, we actually got money to
23 support small businesses that were
24 impacted by the shutdown and impacted
25 by the lack of street foot traffic.

1 Since we're similarly in a
2 crisis that is impacting small
3 businesses to the point where they're
4 closing and leaving, would we
5 consider a program from the Commerce
6 Department to support the small
7 businesses in Kensington specifically
8 until we can get a handle on what's
9 going on? And by support, I mean
10 support to their revenue so that
11 what's going on doesn't force them to
12 close.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: Is there a
14 representative from the Commerce
15 Department?

16 (Witnesses approached the
17 Witness table.)

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: Please
19 state your name for the record and
20 respond to the Member's question.

21 MS. FEGELY: Karen Fegely,
22 Deputy Commerce Director.

23 MR. MURPHY: Denis Murphy,
24 Deputy Commerce Director.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

1 Please respond.

2 MS. FEGELY: I mean, a general
3 response is we're always (inaudible).

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Move the
5 mic a little closer.

6 MS. FEGELY: We're always open
7 to exploring ways to assist
8 businesses. In the Kensington area
9 over the past few years, one of the
10 things we offered was free security
11 cameras, something that's done in
12 other parts of the City as well, as
13 well as our just regular resources
14 that we often offer to small
15 businesses. We partner with Impact
16 and New Kensington to support them.

17 But as has been discussed
18 here, the challenges in Kensington
19 are unlike anywhere else in the City.
20 And so, we're open to any and all
21 resolutions.

22 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: I just
23 think we do a lot of meaningful work
24 across the City, but I just think one
25 thing that we have to be good at or

1 better at is mobilizing to address a
2 crisis when a crisis is happening and
3 offering a different and more intense
4 level of support when and where a
5 crisis is happening.

6 And so, if the small
7 businesses in Kensington are so
8 underdseigned that they are being
9 forced to close or they're leaving, I
10 would say that that would demand a
11 different level of response from the
12 City, from us, right. And I think
13 that we should offer a more intense
14 level of support in addition to the
15 enforcement strategies that we're
16 undertaking.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: So as a
18 part of a Kensington Marshall Plan,
19 it should be a Commerce small loan,
20 small grant component?

21 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Not a
22 loan.

23 COUNCILMAN JONES: Grant.

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: During
25 COVID, I know a lot of that money was

1 federal money. Some of it was state
2 money. But this is dire, right, this
3 is dire for Kensington as COVID was
4 for the entire city. And so, I think
5 we should be considering supporting
6 these small businesses because the
7 community needs them to be here,
8 right. So I hope we would consider
9 something at some point.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: So can we
11 as a subset of this group consider
12 Member Gauthier's recommendation,
13 which is that we mobilize resources,
14 federal, state or local to assist
15 some of these businesses that we
16 heard about that are devastated by
17 this condition?

18 MS. FEGELY: Yes, I think
19 that's a great idea. We'll do that
20 again. I'll make sure we bring in
21 New Kensington and Impact who are our
22 boots-on-the-ground. They talk to
23 the businesses every day and know
24 what the issues are.

25 And I'll just add, you're

1 right, with COVID our response from
2 the City, from Commerce, we jumped
3 into action right away. We gave very
4 small grants that we considered
5 lifelines until the federal funds
6 kicked in with the PPP and the larger
7 longer term financial supports. All
8 of COVID was still shorter than the
9 effects that the businesses in
10 Kensington are dealing with. And so,
11 considering when a long-term solution
12 is going to be is something we have
13 to really take a look at.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: So we'll
15 look for your thoughts, cameras,
16 lighting, anything that can
17 contribute to the safety of their
18 operation, even security audits.

19 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: And
20 lighting.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: And
22 lighting. Are you done, Member
23 Gauthier?

24 COUNCILWOMAN GAUTHIER: Yes,
25 Mr. Chair.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Chair
2 recognizes Member Squilla.

3 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Thank
4 you, Mr. Chair.

5 Mr. DA, I'm going to go into
6 more of I guess the preventive or
7 diversionary program. We worked
8 really hard together on coming up
9 with AMP Court and with the DA's
10 Office and the Police Department and
11 the Municipal Court and got it up and
12 running. And there was two days a
13 week starting I think in September I
14 think it started. And eventually
15 it's going to move up to five days a
16 week. Would you be willing to sit
17 down with the Defender Association
18 and myself to go over what is needed
19 to make that happen and do you
20 believe it can happen to help with
21 diversionary programs for people who
22 are eligible for that court?

23 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:
24 Councilmember, first of all, I
25 appreciate your comments and your

1 passion about people who are on the
2 street and who are unfortunately so
3 addicted to drugs that they are at
4 risk of killing themselves and the
5 inadequacies of our current law
6 around mental health commitments and
7 around commitments for people who are
8 essentially close to dying as a
9 result of their behavior. You and I
10 have had that conversation.

11 In fact, we had that
12 conversation with another person
13 because I find it very frustrating as
14 well. There are other countries that
15 do better with that than we do. It
16 is in my mind a great tragedy that we
17 have a number of fatal overdoses in
18 Philadelphia County and across the
19 country that we have.

20 Coming back to your issue, I'm
21 a big a supporter of AMP. AMP has
22 been around for many years and you
23 have been one of its champions. It
24 got shut down during the pandemic
25 like everything else got shut down.

1 But like you, I'd like to see AMP
2 five days a week. I would be happy
3 to sit down with you and talk to you
4 about that.

5 I can tell you that the Public
6 Defender, who is in my mind truly
7 doing a truly excellent job, is
8 facing staffing issues just like the
9 Sheriff, just like the Police
10 Department, just as we have at
11 certain times. And so, there have
12 been times even before this Public
13 Defender when there were staffing
14 issues.

15 I am committed to staffing
16 five days a week with current
17 resources, we can always use more,
18 but I'm committed to that and I'm
19 happy to sit down with you and sit
20 down with the Public Defender to talk
21 about what we can do to support that.

22 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All
23 right. That's great. As we talk
24 about this, there's a lot of
25 different things that we can do and

1 that's just one thing. It's not
2 going to solve the problem, but it's
3 a way to get some help for folks that
4 are on the street that I think we
5 could hopefully steer them in the
6 right direction. So I would love to
7 maybe we can set that up next week
8 and sit down and figure out how to do
9 that. Thank you.

10 DISTRICT ATTORNEY KRASNER:

11 And I can do that. And I do want to
12 just make one comment, something that
13 I remember Former Commissioner
14 Richard Ross saying, which is that
15 solutions usually are not in one
16 part. It's usually layer after layer
17 of programs that are good. Each one
18 is going to take a little bite out of
19 a crumb.

20 This is one of those things
21 that will take a little bite of a
22 crumb. Obviously it hasn't solved it
23 and it has been around for years, but
24 it's positive and pushes in the right
25 direction. If we can just come with

1 13, 14, 15 little changes, new
2 approaches and put them altogether,
3 that to me is where the solution
4 lies. It's not just one thing. It's
5 a whole bunch of things.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
7 Thank you so much. And we appreciate
8 having these difficult conversations
9 that we can come up with consensus,
10 and I think we're getting there.

11 So what I want to do is let my
12 members of the Committee know we are
13 approaching 8:30, and we have an
14 ambitious group of next panelists.
15 And so, if there are no other
16 questions from this group, Mr. Cohen,
17 can we bring up the last group to
18 testify.

19 THE CLERK: Yes. We're going
20 to call all the remaining witnesses
21 together at the same time. So
22 Charles Lawson, Chief of SEPTA
23 Transit Police; Lisa Deeley,
24 Chairwoman of the City Commissioners;
25 Keisha Hudson, Chief Public Defender;

1 Karyn Lynch and Kevin Bethel of the
2 School District of Philadelphia.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
4 all for your patience. Please come
5 up and we will attempt to look for
6 solutions within your area or
7 expertise.

8 (Witnesses approached
9 Witness Table.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Welcome.
11 Thank you.

12 If I could, can I start with
13 the Chief Defender. How many cases
14 have you defended regarding retail
15 theft in the area of Kensington?

16 MS. HUDSON: I did not bring
17 retail theft numbers. What I will
18 say, understand that a very small
19 number of people are responsible for
20 a very large portion of retail
21 thefts. And when I say a small
22 number, 22 people for 70 percent of
23 the retail thefts. That's not
24 specific to Kensington. So --

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you

1 repeat that for --

2 MS. HUDSON: 22 single people
3 for 77 percent of retail thefts.
4 That is just one data pull that we
5 did. I can come back with
6 Councilmanic data. I did not come
7 prepared with data about Kensington.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: We are
9 sitting here shocked that that number
10 is so low --

11 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Is it
12 because they're not arrested or is it
13 because people just let them leave --

14 MS. HUDSON: I'm Keisha
15 Hudson, Chief Defender for the
16 record. I will say for those who are
17 not familiar with what we do, we are
18 the agency appointed to represent
19 people who are arrested and charged
20 with crimes, both youth and adults.
21 We also have a unique practice where
22 we represent the children who are in
23 the independent system in the City of
24 Philadelphia.

25 We are appointed because

1 people cannot afford an attorney.
2 And so, the very reason for our
3 constitutional existence, our
4 constitutional and mandated existence
5 is that if you are arrested and
6 charged with a criminal offense, you
7 are constitutionally entitled to an
8 attorney, so that's where we come in.

9 My client is seeking something
10 that is very unique and it's called
11 mitigation. We have attorney-client
12 privilege and our clients will tell
13 us things that they don't tell their
14 mothers, they don't tell their
15 fathers. And when a client walks
16 through the door, we go back
17 generations.

18 The issues that the clients
19 that we have in Kensington are facing
20 are multi-generational. We're
21 talking drug abuse, housing
22 instability, job insecurity, poor
23 education, and that is the reason
24 they walk through the doors. And for
25 every client that I represent and

1 then we have a mitigation specialist
2 assigned to the case, we can tell you
3 every missed intervention before they
4 picked up a needle, before they sold
5 drugs, before they picked a gun,
6 before they fired a gun, and there
7 are a lot of missed interventions in
8 the very fabric of their disinvested
9 communities and the lack of
10 affordable quality housing and the
11 lack of education, missed
12 opportunities in the school
13 environment and missed interventions
14 to mental health and drug addiction.

15 We represent 70 percent of
16 clients who are arrested in
17 Philadelphia. 40 percent of them
18 have a mental diagnosis. That's 40
19 percent.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you
21 repeat that again?

22 MS. HUDSON: 40 percent are
23 diagnosed with a mental illness.
24 Drug addiction is a mental illness,
25 and I understand that people think

1 these are choices and the frustration
2 from the community regarding what
3 this looks like and how this impacts
4 them. But I was also very happy to
5 hear the testimony of the community
6 member just talk about what her child
7 witnesses or what her community
8 witnesses, because these are I have
9 to tell you in another 60 years that
10 child who is walking by and stepping
11 over a needle and/or is exposed to
12 watching deep, deep trauma is going
13 to be my client unless we do
14 something different.

15 We cannot arrest and prosecute
16 and incarcerate our way out of this
17 problem. It is a playbook that has
18 never worked. I don't watch sports
19 so I can't believe I'm going to do
20 this. But if we are playing a
21 football game and the same moves
22 aren't getting the win, you don't
23 keep using the same moves. That's
24 the closest I'll ever get to a
25 football analogy.

1 We have to come up with
2 something different and that's the
3 trauma-informed approach for both the
4 community residents, who is that
5 child who is walking by and seeing
6 someone inject, who is experiencing
7 deep trauma, but it's also my client
8 who once was that child who has
9 experienced deep trauma. And my
10 clients are poor, they are Black.

11 Just to talk about specific
12 numbers in Kensington, 53 percent of
13 our Kensington clients are Hispanic,
14 36 percent are Black and 11 percent
15 are White. We are talking about
16 Black and Brown bodies, and we're
17 going to have this conversation again
18 in another 50 years if we have not
19 done something different.

20 Investments in policing are
21 important. Investment in prosecution
22 and in judiciary is important. I'm
23 asking for investment in my
24 organization, and I'm very thankful
25 to City Council because they have

1 made that investment. So this is how
2 we are using our budget allocation.

3 Our Dependants Unit, the
4 majority of our children in our child
5 welfare assistance in the Dependants
6 Unit come from this District. I
7 don't think we can divorce the issue
8 of Philadelphia leading the nation in
9 the separation of children from their
10 families, Kensington leading the City
11 in the separation of children from
12 their families and say that that has
13 no correlation to what we're seeing
14 now, because it does. And our data
15 shows that 1 in 4 who are in the
16 dependant assistance are picking up
17 guns and/or committing other crimes
18 in the delinquent system.

19 Our office, the Child Advocacy
20 Unit sits on the 9th floor. They
21 will have a file on the client and
22 then you walk up to the 10th floor
23 because the Children and Youth
24 Justice Unit also have a file on that
25 client. That client because of

1 misinterventions and lack of
2 resources in our organization did not
3 allow us to prevent that child from
4 making a choice that negatively
5 impacted them, the family and the
6 community.

7 So we're taking a deep look at
8 what we do in our child welfare
9 practice, but we have to prioritize
10 the preservation and unification of
11 Black and Brown families. It is a
12 source of deep trauma when you rip a
13 child from their home. Even a drug-
14 addicted parent can be a good parent.
15 They can get treatment and they can
16 be re-unified with their child,
17 because that child experiencing that
18 trauma is going to be my delinquent
19 juvenile or my adult client.

20 1 in 4 of our dependent kids
21 pick up a delinquent petition. 1 in
22 5 of our adults had a dependency
23 petition. So how we're using our
24 budget allocation this year, we are
25 focusing on older youth. We are

1 increasing social services to focus
2 on the 13 and over population, who if
3 they are in group placement or foster
4 care, no one wants to adopt. No one
5 wants a 13-year-old Black boy. He's
6 not going to get adopted. The
7 8-month-old cute kid is going to get
8 adopted, not my 13-, 14- or 15-year-
9 olds, and they need supports wrapped
10 around them and our arms wrapped
11 around them.

12 So we're increasing social
13 service supports, focusing on older
14 youth. We're hiring with our budget
15 allocation four peer mentors that
16 will be paid \$40,000 each. These
17 peer mentors have been through the
18 dependency system. They know what
19 it's like. They can help us work
20 with our clients on ways we can help
21 them.

22 We are also increasing our
23 social services to do more of a case
24 management support. Right now we do
25 a life touch. We tell our clients go

1 to Community Legal Services for your
2 public benefits or go to these other
3 social service agencies. The
4 bureaucracy and the amount of
5 administrative work that our clients
6 have to do to navigate services is a
7 challenge we have to overcome.

8 When they have a 5th grade
9 reading level and they have other
10 issues that they're struggling with,
11 to have them go to 15 different
12 agencies to be able to say I need
13 help with this issue or that issue,
14 they cannot do it. So instead of our
15 social workers giving a referral, we
16 are moving towards a model where we
17 are pairing the social workers. They
18 are with them for that first year,
19 that first two years or three years
20 and working with them to make deep
21 connections and deep supports.

22 You asked about solutions so
23 I'm going to read off the four that
24 we recommend. We recommend
25 prioritizing justice system-involved

1 adults and their families for social
2 services, including housing,
3 workforce development, substance
4 abuse and mental health treatment.
5 We have to ensure all children and
6 families who reside in areas of high
7 levels of community violence have
8 immediate access to culturally-
9 appropriate trauma treatment,
10 invested in neighborhood-based
11 culturally appropriate services,
12 especially housing, and reshaping
13 policies which govern the best
14 interest of the child to acknowledge
15 the harm imposed on them by
16 separation from their families and
17 neighborhoods. Thank you.

18 COUNCILMAN JONES: I got to
19 tell you that I am a fan and I'm a
20 fan for a number of reasons. One,
21 you're one of the only agencies I
22 know that can see a problem coming
23 from the juvenile point of view when
24 you are representing them often as
25 their advocate, a custody case, and

1 you can identify somebody that really
2 needs the help.

3 And then unfortunately when we
4 don't provide that help, they are the
5 defendant, please rise as an adult.
6 If you listened to what she talked
7 about, she's punching way over her
8 budget. You don't get funded to
9 do -- well, at least I don't know
10 about it -- some of the things in
11 your case management style. You are
12 a Defender. You could define your
13 job as in the courtroom, in the
14 advocacy role and then after that
15 decision is made, see you next time.
16 But that is not what you do. And I
17 am a fan because of it. It is
18 holistic in your approach.

19 So you have four
20 recommendations. Would you please
21 repeat them?

22 MS. HUDSON: Prioritizing
23 justice system-involved adults and
24 families for social services,
25 including housing, workforce

1 development, substance use and mental
2 health treatment; ensuring all
3 children and families, not just
4 justice-involved children and
5 families, all children and families
6 in areas of high levels of community
7 violence have immediate access to
8 trauma-informed treatment; we have to
9 invest in neighborhood-based
10 culturally-appropriate services,
11 especially housing, mental health and
12 substance abuse treatment, offer
13 children and their families new
14 dependency and delinquency systems,
15 reshaping policies which govern the
16 best interests of the child to
17 acknowledge the harm imposed upon
18 them by separation from their
19 families and neighborhoods.

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Members of
21 the Committee, any questions?

22 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I have a
23 question. I'm glad to hear that
24 you're talking about what I have been
25 talking about. You're talking about

1 being the front line for our
2 children. If we get it early enough,
3 we can treat it and dismiss it
4 because I've always said that these
5 kids that we're not treating the
6 trauma that they're seeing, they are
7 going to be the addicts and the
8 criminals of tomorrow. And that
9 doesn't sit right with me, because
10 every kid should have a chance to be
11 a kid, to enjoy life and think about
12 things that -- have things that are
13 fun, not thinking about what the kids
14 in my neighborhood here in Kensington
15 have to think about.

16 I live a block up the street
17 and I encourage everybody who hasn't
18 rode past there at G and Allegheny,
19 that little corridor between
20 Allegheny and Westmoreland, it's only
21 a block. I encourage you to take a
22 ride past. I would not get out and
23 stop, but I would take a ride past.
24 And me and my wife and Quetcy walk
25 that corridor all the time by

1 ourselves. And we are willing to
2 stand out there, right, Councilwoman,
3 with anybody in this room that wants
4 to come out and walk it with us to
5 see what we have to see daily and
6 what our kids have to see.

7 I mean, I'm a big component of
8 trauma services for our children.
9 What the kids in this neighborhood
10 see on a daily basis just on their
11 way to school is traumatizing, and we
12 need to be better. We need to be
13 better as Council. We need to be
14 better as a City.

15 And hopefully, we can get some
16 money over there so we can actually
17 start trying to -- but it's also, you
18 know, I'm a numbers guy like some of
19 us up here are. And I heard an
20 amazing statistic in Pennsylvania.
21 We have one child psychiatrist for
22 every 10,000 children. Now, it's a
23 little better here in Philadelphia
24 because we are a big city, but that's
25 just ridiculous. How is one person

1 supposed to see 10,000 people. It's
2 just not going to happen. So thank
3 you.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.
5 Members, any there other questions?

6 (No response.)

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: Like I
8 said, I'm a fan. We need to do more
9 to reinforce what your staff do for
10 the City of Philadelphia. And so,
11 thank you. Thank you for your
12 service.

13 Can we agree -- I'd like to go
14 to SEPTA next.

15 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Can I say
16 one thing?

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: I'm sorry.
18 Member Squilla.

19 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Also too,
20 I would say I want to thank
21 Ms. Hudson for her work. It's really
22 important to have everybody on all
23 sides on the same benefits of
24 (inaudible) to give people an
25 alternative. And one question, do

1 you think with your current staffing
2 you would be able to do five days a
3 week?

4 MS. HUDSON: We believe we
5 could.

6 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: All
7 right. Thank you so much.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
9 Member Squilla.

10 SEPTA, state your name and
11 please begin your recommendations.

12 MR. LAWSON: Thank you,
13 Chairman Jones. My name --

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Hold the
15 mic a little closer.

16 MR. LAWSON: My name is Chuck
17 Lawson, Chief of the SEPTA Police
18 Department and I am joined by our
19 Chief Operating Officer Scott Sauer.
20 We submitted our testimony. I'm not
21 going to go through it all. I'm just
22 going to jump right to our
23 recommendations. I will say that I
24 am very pleased that Council has
25 focused so intently on talk of

1 (inaudible) about our approaches of
2 security and safety is adequate
3 without at least saying that we
4 focused a tremendous amount of effort
5 on quality-of-life issues on SEPTA.

6 Historically, I've been with
7 the Police Department for 30 years.
8 We know that it tends to keep violent
9 crime down. We've been dealing with
10 more violent crime as of late, but
11 the fact remains that our focus on
12 summary offenses has served us very
13 well over the years.

14 To put that in perspective, we
15 are aggressively enforcing quality-
16 of-life issues. Just some numbers
17 over the Kensington corridor, that's
18 four stations through Kensington.
19 We --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: Can you for
21 the record name those stations?

22 MR. LAWSON: Certainly. We're
23 dealing with Huntingdon, Somerset,
24 Allegheny and Tioga. With those four
25 stations, we have enforced 362

1 quality-of-life offenses just this
2 year-to-date.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Repeat
4 that.

5 MR. LAWSON: 362 summary
6 offenses to date, year-to-date.

7 COUNCILMAN JONES: For the
8 benefit of the public, define what a
9 quality-of-life offense is.

10 MR. LAWSON: Sure. So they're
11 low-level issues dealing with open
12 outlaw use, possession, narcotics,
13 smoking, all the code-of-conduct
14 issues, behavior that we don't want
15 on the system, safety issues,
16 loitering, blocking public transit
17 ways, things like that. So just
18 those four stations, almost 400
19 offenses that we --

20 COUNCILMAN JONES: What period
21 of time does this cover?

22 MR. LAWSON: January to
23 year-to-date to the present time.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: That's six
25 months?

1 MR. LAWSON: Correct, from
2 January 1 to June 30th.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Continue.

4 MR. LAWSON: So one of the
5 things that we're willing to do also
6 is to ban individuals for repeated
7 violations. So if an individual
8 engages in summary of life, code-
9 of-conduct violation on SEPTA, they
10 do that four times in the span of one
11 year, we will ban them from SEPTA.
12 We have now engaged in 17 bans just
13 over those four stations as well
14 year-to-date. And that's more than
15 half of the bans that we have year-
16 to-date over the rest of SEPTA.

17 One of the things that we're
18 willing to do, in those four stations
19 across SEPTA we have more resources
20 deployed than any four stations over
21 the rest of SEPTA, over all of
22 SEPTA's 200-plus stations. More
23 policing resources, more outreach
24 worker resources, more (inaudible)
25 and more cleaning resources just over

1 that four-stretch because frankly we
2 need it and we recognize that.

3 You know we engaged in a pilot
4 last year in terms of cleaning and
5 really deep cleaning SEPTA stations.
6 We've done two of those efforts over
7 the Kensington station this year. We
8 had another station in Tioga
9 scheduled for it this weekend coming
10 up. So we'll close the station down.
11 We hate to impact the community to
12 that extent, but it requires the
13 level of concentration that we need
14 to do to clean those areas and
15 provide the level of service to our
16 customers that we (inaudible).

17 I'll go through just another
18 list of things that we have most
19 recently implemented or are in the
20 process of implementing. All of
21 these are relative new efforts. So
22 increasing staffing along the
23 Market-Frankford Line, along the east
24 end of the Market-Frankford Line.
25 That started in March. So we added

1 more police officers to that section.

2 We're seeing a rebound in
3 recruitment we're very happy to
4 report. We just graduated a class of
5 21 recruits. To put that in
6 perspective, the last four academy
7 classes that we put in the academy, 5
8 or --

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: How many
10 vacancies?

11 MR. LAWSON: So we're dealing
12 with about just over 30. There's 32
13 vacancies right now. That number's
14 down from 70 as much as seven months.
15 So we hired 50 police officers in the
16 last 12 months. So as I said that
17 graduating class is coming out,
18 that's going to enable us in terms of
19 real officer numbers to dedicate
20 another six to eight officers across
21 every shift in the Kensington
22 corridor. That number will probably
23 drop a little bit over the weekend
24 because that's a real number that
25 went out every weekday.

1 We have created a virtual
2 patrol. That was borne out of some
3 of the staff issues we experienced
4 years ago. What we assign now is
5 any one virtual patrol operator
6 behind the camera can pull up, up to
7 six or seven stations, right. So now
8 we have eyes on multiple stations.
9 Where I can only put a police officer
10 at one station at a time, we now have
11 eyes on a number of stations.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Did I
13 understand you to say you have one
14 police officer, SEPTA police, at each
15 station?

16 MR. LAWSON: No. Whereas I
17 can only put one or two officers at a
18 station at a time in any given
19 moment, I can pull up cameras at six,
20 seven or eight stations. So we're
21 multiplying the area and situational
22 awareness so we're aware of what's
23 going on, on SEPTA at any given time.
24 It's a cross-multiplier for our
25 virtual patrol unit.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: So in order
2 to cover those four -- so is there a
3 higher level of criminal activity at
4 those four stations?

5 MR. LAWSON: There are. I
6 will tell you that year-to-date we
7 have exactly six serious crimes over
8 those four stations year-to-date.
9 That number's down by 50 percent or
10 more. So we're seeing some of these
11 strategies that we implemented
12 working. But the fact remains, the
13 fact remains that our customers are
14 not complaining about serious crimes
15 day-in and day-out. They're
16 complaining about the conditions that
17 they see at our stations onboard our
18 trains. That's what we're focused on
19 trying to impact with these quality-
20 of-life enforcement efforts.

21 COUNCILMAN JONES: Do you have
22 statistics on the ridership at those
23 four stations?

24 MR. LAWSON: We can get true
25 numbers by station.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: I got Chair
2 of Transportation right here. He
3 wants to know.

4 MR. LAWSON: I apologize. I
5 don't have those raw numbers. We can
6 get them. We have them. We
7 aggregate that monthly, so we can get
8 that to you.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you.

10 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: Just to
11 ask, what's the starting salary for a
12 SEPTA police officer?

13 MR. LAWSON: I think it's now
14 close to 70,000.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: Say that
16 again.

17 MR. LAWSON: Close to 70,000.

18 COUNCILMAN HARRITY: I guess
19 that would be the reason why you're
20 only down 30 officers and you're down
21 1300 officers or 900. Yep, it goes
22 to my point. They need a raise.

23 MR. LAWSON: Just allow me to
24 finish just a couple other things
25 that we've implemented. We've hired

1 some civilian analysts. So we're
2 looking weekly at measuring
3 statistics through that corridor.
4 Every week I get a report on
5 measuring our key performance
6 indicators through that area, and
7 some of the reports statistics I
8 read off to you.

9 We a fantastic partnership
10 with our partners at PPD. We have
11 started conducting joint sweeps now
12 in the Kensington Allegheny area,
13 established that about a month ago.
14 That's going well. I hope we can
15 expand that, but that's conducted
16 twice a day with the members of the
17 Philadelphia Police Department, and
18 of course partnering with them on
19 more serious issues.

20 You've heard some statistics
21 put out by Philadelphia on the recent
22 narcotics efforts in East Division.
23 We partnered with them on that
24 effort. We'll continue to do it in
25 the future.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: So no open
2 air drug dealing on your platform?

3 MR. LAWSON: I would be lying
4 if I said that was not occurring. We
5 are absolutely dealing with a much
6 bigger issue of possession and use.
7 We find disregarded needles by the
8 bucket loads throughout our system.
9 Use is a major, major issue for us.
10 We have some absolutely targeted
11 hotspots where distribution is going
12 on. But by and large, possession and
13 use is our problem.

14 And then just a couple of
15 final things. We even engage in an
16 end-of-line initiative. So it's very
17 difficult for us, right. You're
18 asking police officers to identify
19 homelessness. We can't. If you're
20 asking police officers to identify
21 who by law is a narcotic user, we
22 can't. We get in trouble when we do
23 that.

24 So we police behavior and
25 activity, but we can't in many

1 circumstances determine who's paying
2 a fare to get on, right. So when
3 they're on our trains, we have to
4 assume that they paid to get on.
5 What we do enforce is you pay a fare,
6 one fare. You go to the end of the
7 line, if you want to ride again, pay
8 a second fare.

9 So what we've adapted to is
10 homelessness -- there are folks who
11 are engaged in -- who have shelter
12 facilities, right, for sleeping.
13 They use SEPTA as sort of a day
14 shelter, right, a place to get out of
15 the weather during the day. That's
16 where our trouble area is. They want
17 to stay on the train.

18 So we've adapted to that by
19 establishing a police presence at our
20 end-of-lines on the Market-Frankford
21 and Broad Street, so we can enforce,
22 all right, you rode the system down
23 and you want to get on again, you got
24 to pay a fare. And if you don't,
25 you're off.

1 As I said, we will remove
2 folks, aggressively remove folks from
3 our system that engage in behavior
4 that we don't want. Year-to-date,
5 and again just over Kensington's four
6 stations, year-to-date we removed
7 10,801 individuals for violating some
8 section of our code of conduct or
9 engaging in a crime on SEPTA.

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
11 I'm going to need you to repeat that
12 for the record.

13 MR. LAWSON: Yep. So removals
14 over those four stations I mentioned
15 are 10,801 from a period of January
16 1st through June 30th.

17 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.

18 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA: Without a
19 CVN or --

20 MR. LAWSON: In most cases
21 they receive a summary violation, but
22 we will remove without ticket for
23 engaging in non-criminal violation of
24 our code of conduct.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: What

1 about lying down?

2 MR. LAWSON: Yep. So if
3 you're lying down in a concourse on
4 SEPTA or you're sleeping on the
5 train, you're laid out and you're
6 taking up multiple seats with many
7 belongings, those are things that
8 we'll engage an individual on, tell
9 them they can't do and try to see if
10 they will accept services. And if
11 they refuse, we remove them from the
12 system.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: So are many
14 of these individuals the 10,000
15 repeat offenders?

16 MR. LAWSON: They are.
17 Unfortunately, they are. And that's
18 who we're focused on, right. Our
19 summary enforcement efforts are
20 created with the idea of identifying
21 the smaller number of repeat
22 offenders, right, because once you're
23 banned from SEPTA, if you return
24 while the ban is in effect, what we
25 do is arrest for criminal trespass.

1 Now, it's a misdemeanor. Now, it has
2 a little more bite.

3 COUNCILMAN JONES: Okay. Any
4 questions for SEPTA?

5 (No response.)

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
7 so much for your service. I
8 appreciate what you're doing for this
9 community. Do you have an analysis
10 of your ridership at those four
11 stations? Are they students going
12 back and forth to school, people
13 going back and forth to work during
14 rush hour or nontraditional times?
15 Do you have that kind of data?

16 MR. SAUER: Yes, we do have
17 that data. I don't have it handy,
18 but we do. And anecdotally, I can
19 tell you it's a mix. During when
20 school is in session, we see a lot of
21 students. When it's not, we see
22 run-of-the-mill commuters going back
23 and forth to work, shopping trips,
24 what have you. So it is a mix at
25 most of those stations.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Any stats
2 on nightshift hours?

3 MR. SAUER: Yes, we can
4 disseminate the data in all sorts of
5 the four stations, nighttime,
6 daytime. I'll work on that and we
7 can get that over to you.

8 COUNCILMAN JONES: Member
9 Lozada.

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: For the
11 record, I want to say thank you to
12 the Chief and to Wendy and the SEPTA
13 team. I met with them last week
14 about some of the issues that are
15 reported to my office on a consistent
16 basis around the platform and around
17 trash. And while they didn't make it
18 to our walkthrough today, they have
19 committed to partnering with us and
20 joining our pilot efforts of 24-hour
21 cleaning.

22 And so, we met today. We
23 created a plan. We picked a
24 footprint. We'll make sure that we
25 share that with you all, and we look

1 forward to seeing some really
2 positive outcomes from that. So
3 thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Again, I'll
5 put an emphasis on thank you. We
6 appreciate the effort.

7 Are there any other questions
8 for this testifier?

9 (No response.)

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Next we'll
11 do Commissioner Deeley, who has been
12 very, very patient.

13 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Good
14 evening, Chairperson Jones and
15 members of the Committee. Thank you
16 for the opportunity to testify. In
17 light of everybody's time, I will
18 just summarize my written testimony,
19 which was already sent in yesterday.

20 We appreciate all your efforts
21 to enhance the quality of life of the
22 constituents in Kensington who battle
23 every day for safety in their
24 community, and we are eager to work
25 with Council to improve the quality

1 of life and increase access to voting
2 services for the residents of
3 Kensington and increase the voter
4 participation rate, which is a goal
5 that we have for the whole city.

6 I would like to see us hire
7 more bilingual staff and we are
8 working to fill a Spanish-language
9 access and engagement specialist
10 position so that we can have a
11 greater presence in the community and
12 register more people to vote. But
13 I'm not going to lie, we are not the
14 silver bullet.

15 The lower voter participation
16 is a symptom of the underlying cause
17 of the issue. Because of the crime
18 and open air drug use, residents are
19 afraid to leave their home and let
20 their kids play outside. So we run
21 into the same problems that any other
22 City department runs into when
23 providing services to these
24 constituents.

25 I think that we need to look

1 at issues from all perspectives to
2 find the best course of action. We
3 all come to this issue with a
4 personal bias. We love an addict or
5 loves someone that loves an addict.
6 Love and sympathy can cloud our
7 approach to addressing this.

8 We need to remember the people
9 who are living here and how it
10 affects them. Kensington is more
11 than a problem (inaudible) headlines.
12 It is home to many longtime residents
13 who cannot let their children play
14 outside or walk to school. I am here
15 to tell you that the City
16 Commissioner's Office appreciates the
17 absolute attention that this
18 Committee has paid to this very
19 important issue, and we look forward
20 to working with you to increase
21 access to voting services, the
22 residents of Kensington and increase
23 the voter participation rate, which
24 is the goal we have for the entire
25 city. Thank you.

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
2 Commissioner. Question: In this
3 area is voter turnout higher or
4 lower?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Lower.

6 COUNCILMAN JONES: And in this
7 community how do we make the
8 connection to voter education so that
9 we can increase that turnout? And I
10 guess my final question would be how
11 many polling places are we
12 establishing in this area to make it
13 convenient to walk fewer steps to get
14 to participate?

15 COMMISSIONER DEELEY: Well,
16 I'll have to get you that
17 information. I'll look at the wards
18 and the divisions and give you the
19 count on the polling places. But we
20 face that same problem when we're
21 looking to put drop boxes, satellite
22 offices, polling places, we have to
23 take everything into account with
24 regard to the health and safety of
25 the people that are working the

1 polls.

2 Although we don't have a
3 problem in this area recruiting
4 Election Board workers, participation
5 is very low. So for instance, it was
6 well-publicized, the 2020, the
7 General Election when we were dealing
8 with the COVID-19 pandemic, we were
9 able to store a \$10 million
10 agreeance to help us conduct that
11 election. And one of the things we
12 were able to do was open 17 satellite
13 election offices around the City,
14 including one at Julia De Burgos and
15 one at Mastbaum.

16 Julia De Burgos was one of the
17 first to open in the City. And in
18 addition, we spent over \$700,000 on
19 the bilingual advertising campaign,
20 which included radio, TV, social
21 media, all kinds of bus wraps, truck
22 wraps. We advertise all over the
23 radio.

24 But sadly, the Julia De Burgos
25 office was the least utilized office

1 in the City. Although it helped
2 increase mail voting participation in
3 the areas surrounding the school, the
4 participation was low. People were
5 coming from other satellite offices
6 by bus to go to Julia De Burgos
7 because they knew that they wouldn't
8 have to anticipate a line. So we
9 know that the participation level is
10 low here for the same reasons. So we
11 would like to be able to engage more
12 with the community, come out to more
13 events and be as proactive with you
14 as we possibly can.

15 COUNCILMAN JONES: We're
16 sitting here (inaudible), but we just
17 got news that six people were shot in
18 the 25th District, which emphasizes
19 why there is a crisis and why this
20 demands attention.

21 Are there any questions for
22 the Commissioner?

23 (No response.)

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right.
25 We have one other agency to testify

1 and that's the School District.

2 Thank you, Commissioner.

3 State your name.

4 MR. BETHEL: So good evening.

5 COUNCILMAN JONES: Good

6 evening. Thank you for your

7 patience.

8 MR. BETHEL: I won't be

9 testifying I know for the issue of

10 time. My name is Kevin Bethel. I'm

11 the Chief of School Safety. I'm here

12 with Chief Karyn Lynch, who can

13 introduce herself but since I got the

14 mic (inaudible). So I just really

15 want to emphasize, I think in our

16 last session we were here, first of

17 all, I have to extend my appreciation

18 to the Police Department.

19 The work that we've done down

20 in this corridor would not have

21 been -- we definitely wouldn't have

22 been able to do that if the police

23 weren't supporting us every day. As

24 you know, my men and women are not

25 armed so we rely heavily on them.

1 The last time I was here the
2 conversation came up about safe paths
3 and our need for additional funding.
4 I'm not sure if that came out of this
5 budget cycle or not.

6 But recognizing that it may
7 not, we looked at a grant that we had
8 and we were able to reprogram some
9 funds. We dedicated all -- when we
10 started our Safe Path program, it was
11 really targeted toward schools where
12 we were seeing a lot of shooting
13 violence outside of our schools.

14 We made a pivot most recently
15 to say looking at our schools in our
16 opioid corridors, that their demands
17 are even higher than that because of
18 what they're seeing on a daily basis.
19 And so, we are moving forward with
20 getting as many internal dollars as
21 we can to start to expand our Safe
22 Path program in this area.

23 And I will tell people this
24 is -- I worked this area 20 years ago
25 and it wasn't like this. So let's --

1 COUNCILMAN JONES: Say that
2 again.

3 MR. BETHEL: So I don't want
4 to hear no 60-year conversation. 20
5 years ago when I was down here, we
6 were doing Operation Sunrise and
7 Sunset, we're doing all kinds of
8 activity, it was challenging, but it
9 never ever, ever was what I see our
10 kids come through today.

11 Let me give you an example.
12 At Willard -- yes, ma'am.

13 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Can you
14 tell us in your expert opinion why,
15 why are we here?

16 MR. BETHEL: First and
17 foremost, we don't talk about it, but
18 there are multi-million dollar drug
19 corners down here. Some of those
20 corners are owned by four different
21 people who sell four different
22 products. You can sit there and talk
23 about a wire. I did wires down here.
24 I did all of that stuff. I can do a
25 wire tomorrow and take a group out

1 and guess what, there would be
2 another group back there the next
3 day.

4 Part of the work was about
5 enforcement. Listen, and all of you
6 up there know I do a balanced
7 approach. Truly believe in a
8 restorative work, but at the end of
9 the day when those commenters said --
10 when I walk down this -- let me give
11 you an example. Willard School has
12 been shot up three times, Willard
13 School across the street.

14 The last time we had a
15 shooting was on Jasper Street where
16 the bullet went into the classroom.
17 The kids had just left the classroom
18 a half an hour before that. Do you
19 realize I have bullet-proof blankets
20 on windows at Willard to make sure
21 that the bullets don't come up Jasper
22 Street.

23 So when you have this drug
24 element down here and you have
25 multi-million dollar drug

1 organizations and then you allow
2 those sales to continue and fester in
3 here and then we expect something
4 different is going to happen, it's
5 not.

6 And so, I know I'm getting
7 outside of my zone because I've been
8 on both sides of it. But I sat in a
9 classroom, in a classroom. You want
10 to talk about trauma. I sat there
11 with a teacher who was sitting there
12 just in tears just so thankful that
13 the bullet didn't hit her child. And
14 guess what, it was just me, my
15 colleagues from the police department
16 and others who were sitting in that
17 room. No cameras, no attention to
18 the fact that these issues are going
19 on. And so, that's what we're
20 dealing with on a daily basis.

21 I've had deaths at the
22 doorstep of my schools. Do you know
23 what it's like to go to a school and
24 have to sit there and bring the kids
25 around from the other side of the

1 school, because sitting in the front
2 lobby of the school entry is someone
3 who has OD'd in the entryway of the
4 school.

5 So when we talk about trauma,
6 yeah, we can work on all that but we
7 got to -- this is not acceptable. We
8 can't have a community down here and
9 overrun in the way it is and expect a
10 school that we're standing in today
11 can only bring 100 students in here
12 because they won't come. So we have
13 a lot of work to do.

14 And so, we dedicated a Safe
15 Path program into this space where we
16 make sure that we have a school
17 safety officer here. I have men and
18 women working overnight to clean
19 around the buildings to make sure
20 that when the kids come in the
21 morning, that they can walk through
22 and not see all of this activity.
23 Yes, we have building engineers
24 around here walking around picking up
25 needles. That's just not normal.

1 And I hear the crime, but just
2 like many of the folks that have been
3 here before, something definitely has
4 to demonstratively change or we're
5 never going to make any end-roads. I
6 never thought I would be Chief of
7 School Safety sitting in the School
8 District dealing with the issues I
9 deal with in my schools down here.

10 I've never ever, ever thought
11 that teachers -- there's no one who's
12 prepared these teachers and these
13 school leaders for this. And when I
14 sit in a classroom and a young boy is
15 talking how he walks through and he
16 has all the language of the street,
17 the fiend -- I got a child who is in
18 3rd grade talking about fiends. Come
19 on. We got a lot of work to do.
20 We're going to continue to dedicate
21 our work, but we do need support,
22 particularly around Safe Paths is my
23 recommendation to Council.

24 COUNCILMAN JONES: How many
25 schools did you consider in this

1 area --

2 MR. BETHEL: I think it's a
3 total of 11, Councilman, but not all
4 of them, some are in the peripheral.
5 But it's around 11 schools that we're
6 focusing on.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Can you
8 tell me of those schools as of today
9 how many are in need of teachers? I
10 often hear from teachers who work in
11 the 7th Council District, who say to
12 me, Councilwoman, I want to teach, I
13 love children, I want to be here, but
14 I'm afraid to be here. I'm afraid to
15 come to your neighborhood to teach.

16 I know that one of the schools
17 in the District that said to me that
18 she has about seven vacant slots.
19 And so, with just two months before
20 school begins, I'm concerned about
21 that, right, because a lot of our
22 kids are going through the system and
23 we're not teaching them
24 appropriately, and arguably it's
25 because we can't keep teachers who

1 are qualified to be able to teach our
2 children because of the public safety
3 issue.

4 MR. HANNA: Councilwoman,
5 Tomas Hanna, Associate Superintendent
6 for Secondary Schools, formerly
7 principal at Sheppard, Willard and
8 Kensington High School. Done my
9 career here for the most part. What
10 you called out and, Councilmember
11 Harrity, what you called out in terms
12 of a clarion call for folks to come
13 and do this work, there are people in
14 this community, in this country who
15 want to come and do this work.
16 They're not afraid of any of this.
17 You got to pay them and you got to
18 value them when they're in our
19 buildings.

20 One of the reasons teachers
21 leave Chestnut Hill is because of the
22 conditions that are in those
23 buildings in terms of value, in terms
24 of respect and things of that sort.
25 This is part of why we see folks

1 leave. In this community, in this
2 community we have people who want to
3 be here. The challenge of course is
4 everything you called out. They're
5 afraid.

6 I walked up to Conwell.
7 Couldn't believe there's a black
8 wrought iron fence outside of this
9 beautiful building. Those are the
10 types of things we've had to do to be
11 able to serve them, to give people a
12 sense of safety, false sense of
13 safety frankly with all due respect.

14 And what Dr. Watlington has
15 been very clear about is we've to got
16 to pay our educators more, every last
17 one of them. With that said, there
18 is something to be said for equitable
19 isn't always equal. And so, if you
20 choose to come to Kensington High
21 School, which was divided from one
22 high school with 1500 to 1800 into
23 three smaller schools, that has
24 seemed to work, right.

25 You've got -- Edison High

1 School has room for 2200 students.
2 There are 900 students in that
3 building. Strawberry Mansion High
4 School, I know it's not in the
5 Kensington Area, but Strawberry
6 Mansion, that District is suffering
7 the same kinds of issues here. And
8 when we attempted to put a school on
9 an entire floor of Mansion because
10 Mansion has room for 2500 students
11 and there are 500 students in the
12 building, that could be swing space,
13 right, for schools that are suffering
14 because of asbestos and other issues.

15 The community that was coming
16 in turned it down because they would
17 not send their children to that
18 school. You think if tomorrow we
19 told the parents of Frankford High
20 School that their entire building is
21 coming to Edison, you know what would
22 happen? Holy hell to pay, because
23 the perception -- and not Frankford's
24 fault, the perception of this
25 community.

1 And as you said, we're sitting
2 here engaging in this dialogue and
3 the PD left because in this community
4 6 folks got shot. It's real. And
5 so, we have to have the foresight to
6 say, prepare yourself to come and do
7 this work. The other piece we're
8 doing is working with students. We
9 just graduated nine students, only
10 nine, from our public schools who
11 just received full rides to Temple
12 because they decided to go into
13 teaching. Our job is to offer them a
14 guarantee so that when they come with
15 their certification in whatever area,
16 we give them a job.

17 Now, that's not going to
18 happen tomorrow. Temple stepped up.
19 Other universities need to step up.
20 We also have paraprofessionals from
21 this community who by the way are
22 Black, Brown, look like all of us and
23 speak (inaudible), who are
24 paraprofessionals in our buildings
25 who are working toward a degree so

1 that they can teach in our schools as
2 well because some of the most
3 equipped people in our buildings to
4 keep classrooms under control, guess
5 what, it wasn't Mr. Hanna when he
6 started teaching at Father Thomas at
7 6th and Indiana in Room 214 in 5th
8 grade. I didn't know what the heck I
9 was doing. Do you know who it was?
10 It was the paraprofessional who was
11 assigned to me who was from that
12 community, knew those young people
13 and frankly onboarded me to be able
14 to do this work.

15 So that's a really long
16 drawn-out answer, right. But we do
17 have vacancies. Our team is working
18 very hard to fill vacancies and to
19 make sure that we fill them with the
20 right people because, Councilwoman,
21 with all due respect, and I hear you
22 loud and clear, this isn't for
23 everyone. And I would rather tell
24 people the story of Kensington and be
25 part of the renaissance so you don't

1 leave third period on a Wednesday and
2 the principal doesn't know about it
3 because you left.

4 I'd rather you come in
5 understanding what you're getting
6 into, let me work with you and we're
7 going to get you through. With that
8 said, it's not easy. But there are
9 people willing to take the challenge.
10 You're not wrong when you said make
11 it like the Army. This job is a
12 cross between the Peace Corps and the
13 Marine Corps, and we got to be honest
14 about it and not BS people about what
15 this work is. Sorry.

16 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
17 you for that. But can you -- and I
18 know that you might not have the
19 numbers at the moment. But if you
20 can give us a breakdown of schools --

21 MR. HANNA: We will get you
22 vacancy numbers of teachers,
23 principals, assistance principals.
24 Whatever vacancies we have in those
25 buildings, we will endeavor over the

1 next two weeks to get that to you.

2 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: That
3 will be awesome. Thank you.

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: We
5 appreciate your dedication to the
6 young people in this community. We
7 do.

8 Are there any other questions
9 for this group?

10 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I just
11 have one more and, that is, you
12 mentioned Frankford High School.
13 Some members of the Education
14 Committee are here, Vice-Chair Brooks
15 is here, and I don't know if we've
16 been able to receive a very clear
17 plan of what is going to happen in
18 September with all of our students.

19 Vice-Chair, have we received
20 that? I might have missed it.

21 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: No, I
22 haven't received it.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: And so,
24 do you all know what the plan is for
25 Frankford students?

1 MR. HANNA: So I can share
2 with you that we continue to work on
3 the plan. However, the 9th grade
4 class will be housed at Clemente
5 Middle School. The 9th grade group,
6 there was room at Clemente. There is
7 a transportation plan being set up, a
8 feeding plan being set up.

9 There are two schools at
10 Clemente currently, Clemente and the
11 LINC, a high school and a middle
12 school. So we'll have about 290 9th
13 graders coming over to Frankford with
14 a full complement of administrators,
15 teachers, climate staff, safety
16 folks, counseling team so that the
17 entire Frankford team that would
18 support the 9th grade will be at
19 Clemente engaging in that space,
20 number one.

21 Number two, we've also made
22 public, the community there knows
23 that the plan is to look at the side
24 of the Frankford High School building
25 that is not impacted by asbestos.

1 There is work being done there to
2 ensure that those young people can go
3 back to that building for September.

4 That --

5 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: What
6 grade is that?

7 COUNCILMAN HANNA: That would
8 be 10, 11 and 12 all fit in that
9 building. We're talking new wing,
10 not the old wing that is impacted by
11 asbestos.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
13 you.

14 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you,
15 Member.

16 Chair recognizes Member Brooks
17 and then Member Johnson.

18 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: So my
19 question is you talked about the Safe
20 Path program is something already
21 implemented or is it just a vision
22 that you (inaudible) or is it like a
23 pilot?

24 MR. BETHEL: So we initiated
25 the program a year ago. We're

1 currently at 11 schools,
2 Councilwoman. But it was really
3 focused on the issues that we were
4 having during the let-out, as what
5 the kids in the neighborhood are
6 calling it now, addressing the
7 problem that we were having with
8 Lincoln and Overbrook, Bartram where
9 a kid was killed right outside.

10 It has now shifted because we
11 think we've had (inaudible). Now, we
12 use a harm score for our schools, but
13 we put our open corridors in a
14 different category, give them a
15 higher rate. So we're down in three
16 of the schools now, Conwell, Willard
17 and Mastbaum. We're going to be
18 moving to Elkins and Casarez shortly
19 after we reprogram some funds. We
20 believe we can do two more schools
21 afterschool where we can put
22 community members down.

23 We're able to do Willard and
24 Conwell together because of their
25 bell times so we shift them from one

1 side to the other when we think we
2 can have a little bit more
3 (inaudible).

4 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Is the
5 program using your public school
6 resource officers?

7 MR. BETHEL: No, these are
8 community members.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: Are they
10 paid?

11 MR. BETHEL: Yes, ma'am. So
12 they're paid. We put out an RFP last
13 year. IDAAY is the developer of
14 African American Youth, Dr. Leacock.
15 So his team won the award. So
16 they're actually hiring community
17 members from that specific area.
18 They're paid I believe around \$15 an
19 hour, maybe a little bit more, to
20 work in those corridors.

21 We've worked with the
22 University of Pennsylvania in their
23 Injury Science Unit. The
24 Philadelphia Commission of Crime and
25 Delinquency put out a grant. We are

1 going to get an additional \$2
2 million, but that's going to be
3 running through the University of
4 Penn, and they're going to be doing
5 an additional six or seven schools or
6 maybe I believe eight.

7 And then we have some internal
8 dollars from the federal funds that
9 came in. We were able to use those
10 funds. We also put in a grant for
11 PCD, for the Commission of Crime and
12 Delinquency, got money from them.
13 Dr. Watlington after some of the
14 incidents put some additional
15 dollars, just budget dollars, to
16 continue this process forward.

17 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: So are
18 those programs also coupled with
19 trauma-informed, mental health
20 supports for the young people who are
21 impacted or maybe identified as
22 problematic or have experienced
23 various forms of trauma relating to
24 and what do we need to make do to
25 make sure that happens?

1 MR. BETHEL: We're not there.
2 We are bringing individuals in.
3 There's a small training element. We
4 give them some de-escalation training
5 and conflict resolution. We have not
6 moved to the level to what you
7 described, a more advanced, but I'm
8 more than open to have those
9 conversations around how we --

10 COUNCILMAN JONES: Point of
11 information. Member Brooks, we are
12 working with the School District to
13 teach trauma recognition not only to
14 schoolteachers, but to parents as
15 well. So that is in the beginning
16 stages. We've love to have you
17 there. We've had our Safe Corridor
18 program for I'm going to say 10
19 years. It wasn't an original idea.
20 We copied off of somebody else. It
21 is not perfect but it does work.

22 And I would invite all members
23 to one 7:00 a.m. on Monday morning to
24 come to our roll call meeting and
25 you'll hear from the principals that

1 are participating. I'm so very
2 thankful that you are doing it --

3 MR. BETHEL: I did talk to my
4 team and they believe we can offer
5 them mental health first aid as part
6 of that work, and that will capture
7 many of the things that you're
8 talking about.

9 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: I've
10 just been listening to the community
11 members and just making sure that our
12 young folks based on the statistics
13 that our Public Defender shared, we
14 need to make sure that we're giving
15 our young people all the supports
16 that they need. And I think the
17 schools primarily right here in this
18 area will be impacted by this
19 epidemic. We need to funnel the
20 resources there and I think if we
21 need to loop in Dr. Bowen or whomever
22 else to make sure that happens, let's
23 make sure it happens because --

24 MR. BETHEL: I think I
25 misunderstood your question then. I

1 thought you were talking about the
2 workers along the corridors. It
3 sounds like you may be talking about
4 something different.

5 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: So also
6 the workers along the corridors, the
7 community members that are impacted,
8 the young people who are walking
9 through the trauma, so everyone needs
10 to be a part of this process. And I
11 haven't had a chance to look at the
12 Kensington Plan. I'm hoping that
13 it's including more of this in there,
14 but we need to make sure that our
15 young people are protected from this
16 experience. And protection means
17 preventing them from being able to be
18 affected as they get older, and we
19 have to address the trauma
20 immediately.

21 I mean as young as
22 kindergarten, right. Someone just
23 said removing dead bodies off the
24 steps of the school building --

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: They need

1 to know this ain't normal.

2 MS. LYNCH: Absolutely. Karyn
3 Lynch, Chief of Student Support
4 Services for the record. We have
5 trauma-informed care supports in
6 every single one of our schools K
7 through 12 for our students and
8 they're age-appropriate. We have
9 social, emotional learning supports.
10 We have trained people within our
11 schools to be able to recognize when
12 a child comes into the school one way
13 on a day and a different way on
14 another day that perhaps something
15 has happened.

16 We have circles, community
17 circles within our schools. You can
18 go into our kindergarten classes and
19 you can see our young people sitting
20 in a circle and engaging with one
21 another and developing relationships.
22 You see the same type of experience
23 happening K to 12 in all of our
24 schools.

25 The School District of

1 Philadelphia is now a licensed
2 provider of the Behavioral Health
3 Services. We are partnering with
4 CBH. We are a provider for their
5 service. It is a partnership that
6 has grown over the last 10 years and
7 now the sustainability of the service
8 is there because we're licensed, and
9 CBH recognizes that licensure and
10 pays us for the services that we are
11 providing.

12 CBH is also putting intensive
13 behavioral health supports in every
14 single one of our schools that is
15 intending to be able to serve a child
16 within the school, the same provider
17 within the home, the same provider
18 within the community and those
19 services are appropriate,
20 linguistically and culturally
21 appropriate.

22 So if the community is
23 primarily Spanish-speaking for
24 example, that's the service provider
25 that's going to be in the school with

1 those services. I'm going to say one
2 thing because I know time. We
3 recognize that it's important for our
4 teachers, our school-based staff to
5 be trained as well as for our
6 children to reach the trauma-informed
7 services. We have engaged in our
8 Healing Center Engagement, which is a
9 new initiative this year. We have 15
10 schools -- actually no. We have 17
11 schools that are participating --
12 thank you, Councilman Jones, because
13 we identified two more when we met
14 with you -- that are participating in
15 this effort.

16 We just ended Camp Akili where
17 children in our community who have
18 experienced trauma have the
19 opportunity to engage in a
20 trauma-informed care experience of
21 camping to help deal with their
22 trauma, address their trauma.
23 Throughout the school year we're
24 going to have training for our
25 teachers and our school-based staff.

1 I'm only giving you a small
2 snippet, but it is an environmental
3 trauma-informed care. We recognize
4 that our schools are buildings where
5 there should be safe havens and
6 children should know that once they
7 get there, they're going to be safe,
8 and on the way to and from they're
9 going to be safe.

10 COUNCILWOMAN BROOKS: And just
11 to be clear, are we making sure that
12 we have additional resources in our
13 schools for this particular area that
14 is affected by this epidemic?

15 MS. LYNCH: We can share with
16 you -- I can't do it tonight. We can
17 share with you the additional
18 resources that are provided within
19 this area for the children and the
20 schools that are experiencing trauma.
21 Say, for example, at this particular
22 building, we have van service, we
23 have bus service that are bringing
24 the children here because of the
25 circumstances within the community

1 and --

2 COUNCILMAN JONES: I think
3 what the Member and Member Lozada are
4 talking about is that there's a
5 commitment within the Kensington Plan
6 to intensify that kind of good work
7 that you do.

8 MS. LYNCH: Yes.

9 COUNCILMAN JONES: All right
10 guys. It's 9:20 and we do have three
11 members of the community that have
12 been so patient. If it's the will of
13 this panel, I'd like to hear from
14 them.

15 Who do we have, Mr. Cohen?

16 THE CLERK: I believe Bonita
17 Cummings but I believe she has left.
18 I believe Sonya Bingham has already
19 spoken.

20 Is there a Lisa Monique
21 Jenkins Haven still present?

22 (No response.)

23 THE CLERK: That's all,
24 Mr. Chair.

25 COUNCILMAN JONES: Going once.

1 Going --

2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I
3 say something?

4 COUNCILMAN JONES: Yes. Come
5 on down and state your name for the
6 record. We're going to do right by
7 the janitor and maintenance people in
8 this building because we promised
9 them we would be out of here 20
10 minutes ago.

11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's
12 not that important.

13 COUNCILMAN JONES: No, it is
14 important. You were patient.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This
16 guy, I don't know what his name is
17 but there's a person that's doing the
18 safety corridor program for this
19 neighborhood. I believe his name was
20 Mike, I'm not sure, he's an older
21 White dude, he's awesome. He gave me
22 his card.

23 He walked through a house that
24 was abandoned and a bunch of the
25 addicts were inside that was right

1 next to Willard and went through the
2 house with me, cleared the house,
3 helped me to seal the house up
4 because it was directly next to the
5 school, and he's been actively
6 talking to every community, to the
7 crossing guards, like if you're a kid
8 that grew up in Philly, the crossing
9 guards, he knew them, he grew up with
10 them, they're extremely important to
11 you, they know you growing up your
12 whole childhood, and I've seen this
13 guy specifically do a really good
14 job.

15 I don't remember his exact
16 name. I can find it. I have a pic
17 but my phone died. I'll take an
18 email or something. But I just want
19 to say that I've seen active, like
20 because you were asking me about
21 participation, positive community --
22 I watched him talk to someone who was
23 addicted and talk to them with
24 experience from his own addiction and
25 be trauma-informed and be consistent

1 in his effort even though the person
2 was getting aggressive with him while
3 still being able to talk to kids and
4 move things through the community.

5 And I just want to say that
6 that program if there's a way to find
7 more funding through this has been
8 extremely helpful to me because I
9 live a half a block away and I see
10 all the shit that goes on here and
11 thanks.

12 COUNCILMAN JONES: Thank you
13 so much for that comment.

14 So this concludes -- no, this
15 Committee, the Committee on Public
16 Safety, will stand in recess to the
17 call of the Chair for Resolution Nos.
18 320120 and 320121, thank you --
19 230120, 230121. Thank you for your
20 patience.

21 (Committee on Public Safety
22 concluded at 9:22 p.m.)
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, hereby certify that the
proceedings and evidence noted are contained
fully and accurately in the stenographic notes
taken by me in the foregoing matter, and that
this is a correct transcript of the same.

TANEHA CARROLL
Court Reporter - Notary Public

(The foregoing certification of this
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